

**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

**FACT SHEET
Volunteer Cleanup Program
Former Bulova Site**

**AUGUST 2007
Site No. V00182-2**

**Remediation of 75-20 Astoria Blvd, Jackson Heights
*Announcement of Public Comment Period for
Remedial Action Work Plan
August 29, 2007 to October 12, 2007.***

Document Repositories

Queens Borough Public Library

Jackson Heights Branch
35-51 81st Street
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Community Board No. 3

82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 606
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

NYSDEC Region 2

47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 482-4891

For more information, contact:

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47-40 21st Street
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718-482-4891

**For public health related
questions contact:**

Charlotte Bethoney

NYSDOH
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
**518-402-7880 or
800-458-1158 ext 27860**

New York established its Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) to address the environmental and legal barriers that often hinder the redevelopment and reuse of contaminated properties. The Voluntary Cleanup Program was developed to enhance private sector cleanup of brownfields by enabling parties to remediate sites using private rather than public funds and to reduce the development pressures on "greenfield" sites.

The Site:

Bulova Corporation and LaGuardia Corporate Center entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for the 17-acre property, Bulova Corporate Center ("the Site"), located at 75-20 Astoria Boulevard in the Jackson Heights section of Queens County, New York. The Site (see Figure 1) is bordered to the south by 25th Avenue, to the east by 77th Street, to the north by Astoria Boulevard and the Grand Central Parkway, and to the west by the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and a retail center.

Prior Investigation:

An investigation was performed under the New York State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). New York State established this program to investigate environmental conditions at privately-owned sites and to enhance cleanups at those sites. When Bulova Corporation owned the site from the 1950s to the 1980s, the Site contained petroleum and chemical underground storage tanks on the property. Subsurface contamination at the site exists at the location of those tanks, which have been removed.

Sampling programs performed at the Site identified the presence of certain volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in groundwater, soils and soil vapor (the air that is present in underground soil) in areas beneath the parking lot on the site. The principle contaminant is trichloroethane (TCA).

Proposed Remedy:

The primary cleanup remedy will be bio-stimulation, which involves the addition of nutrients into the ground to increase the biological degradative capabilities of the native bacteria within the groundwater. Based on the results from a comprehensive biological field study completed at the site, adding lactate (a derivative of milk) will result in the degradation of the contaminants.

To complete this, a groundwater recirculation system will be constructed (see Figure 2). Groundwater will be pumped from extraction wells to a central area where the nutrients will be added. The amended water will then flow back into injection wells where it will re-enter the ground.

Additionally, the groundwater recirculation system has been designed so that the pumping and re-injection of the groundwater will be completely isolated; therefore, there will be no human exposure to the groundwater. The impacted soils are at depth and there is no anticipated human exposure to the impacted soils. The site and surrounding neighborhood are supplied with municipal water derived from Upstate New York reservoirs; groundwater from this site is not used for drinking water.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation has provided input into this project and has participated in the review of the Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP).

Your Opportunity to Comment on the Proposed Remedy:

The RAWP for the site is available for review at the repositories listed on the left-hand side of this page. The public is invited to review the project documents and submit comments to the NYSDEC by October 12, 2007. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the NYSDEC Project Manager listed on the front page of this document.

Figure 1: Site Location Map



Next Steps:

NYSDEC will consider public comments when it completes its review of the RAWP. NYSDEC and NYSDOH will work with the Volunteers to address comments on the RAWP. When all issues are satisfactorily addressed, NYSDEC will approve the RAWP. A future fact sheet will announce when remediation construction will begin at the site.

You are encouraged to contact representatives of NYSDEC or NYSDOH at any time with questions, comments, or concerns. If you know anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list for this project, please have them contact the NYSDEC representative identified on the front page of this fact sheet.

Document Repositories – Hours :

Queens Borough Public Library
 Jackson Heights Branch
 35-51 81st Street
 Jackson Heights, NY 11372
 (718) 899-2500
 Hours Open:
 Mon & Wed 10 am – 8 pm,
 Thurs & Fri 10 am – 6 pm,
 Tues 1 am – 8 pm,
 Saturday 10 am - 5 pm.

OR

Community Board No. 3
 82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 606
 Jackson Heights, NY 11372
 Call for an appointment
 (718) 533-2002

OR

NYSDEC Region 2
 47-40 21st Street
 Long Island City, NY 11101
 Attn: Sondra M. Martinkat
 Phone: (718) 482-4891
 Hours: 9 am – 4 pm, M-F

Figure 2: Remediation Area



Cleanup Area

25th Avenue

77th Street

24th Avenue

Location of Former Underground Tanks

Grassy Area

Park

75-20 Astoria Blvd.

To Astoria Blvd.