CON EDISON WILL BEGIN SITE INVESTIGATION WORK RELATED TO FORMER MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITES STARTING JANUARY, 2004

What is a Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP)?

Con Edison and it's predecessor companies operated two manufactured gas plants (MGP) and two gas holders stations on what is now portions of Peter Cooper Village and Stuyvesant Town from the mid-1800's to the 1940's to produce gas for lighting, heating and cooking. The MGP process also produced byproducts that may have impacted soil and groundwater. Con Edison has entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to investigate and remediate, if necessary, these sites.

What is a site characterization study?

Site characterization activities at a former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site are undertaken to investigate the site for the presence of contamination due to prior operation of the facility. These site characterization activities include: surface soil sampling, subsurface soil sampling, test pit excavation, and groundwater sampling. The site characterization activities are carried out in accordance with plans approved by both the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH.

When will the work start and how long will it last?

The work is scheduled to start in January 2004 and will take approximately 3 months.

What will be the work hours?

The work will be done between 8 am and 5 pm on weekdays. Any work that creates significant noise will not start until after 9 am.

What were the results of the indoor air and soil gas testing?

Con Edison conducted an indoor air and soil gas sampling investigation at both Peter Cooper Village and Stuyvesant Town to determine if subsurface MGP residuals were adversely impacting indoor air quality in the buildings. That investigation has been completed. The results have been reviewed by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) which concluded that it is unlikely that soil gas has a discernable impact on indoor air quality.

How will the site characterization activities be done?

Surface soil sampling consists of using a small scoop to obtain soil from within the top two inches of the surface.

Subsurface soil sampling consists of the installation of soil borings into the ground using a drilling rig. The base program will be 96 soil borings at Peter Cooper Village and 40 soil borings at Stuyvesant Town. Each boring is a hole 6 to 8 inches wide. Soil borings may go from 4 feet below the ground to 30 or 40 feet below, depending upon the suspected depth of contamination.

After sampling activities are completed, these soil borings are filled in with a clay-cement mixture.

Test pits are dug by a backhoe or excavator. The removed soil is placed on plastic sheeting next to the trench while the exposed subsurface is reviewed for the visual presence of contamination or former structures that may be related to the operation of the MGP. Once this information is obtained, the trench is filled in with the soil that was removed. The base program will be 15 test pits at Peter Cooper Village and 7 test pits at Stuyvesant Town.

Monitoring wells are installed to evaluate the quality of the groundwater at a former MGP site. A small diameter (2") well is installed using plastic pipe. The base program will be 20 monitoring wells at Peter Cooper Village and 14 monitoring wells at Stuyvesant Town. A drilling rig like that used for subsurface soil sampling is used to install the groundwater monitoring wells.

Where will the samples be taken?

A map for each site will be placed in public areas showing the location of test trenches, soil borings and monitoring wells. All sampling will be done outdoors except for the underground parking garage located at 251 Avenue C.

What kind of safety measures are required?

A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a community air monitoring plan (CAMP) have been prepared and approved by NYSDEC and NYSDOH to assure the safe completion of the work. The test trenching work will be done in an area enclosed by a portable fence. The work will be done by trained, qualified contractors and will be overseen by Con Edison staff. A representative of NYSDEC will also be on site monitoring the work.

Will the results of the SCS be shared with the public?

Yes, a report containing all results will be submitted to the NYSDEC and NYSDOH. After a final report is prepared it will be available for public review.

How will I know when work will be done near my building?

Notices will be posted in building lobbies indicating where work will occur.

What happens after the site characterization study?

More than one round of investigation may be necessary to ensure that any contamination found during the SCS is fully delineated. If NYSDEC and NYSDOH determine that remediation is required, a comprehensive Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) presenting the proposed cleanup plan will be developed by Con Edison. The RAWP will be available for public review and a public hearing will be held. Upon approval of the final RAWP by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH, the plan will be implemented.

Questions can be addressed to:

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