



In conjunction with



Dear Interested Citizen:

This fact sheet is to inform you of the site characterization planned for the former East 99th Street Works.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:

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Fact Sheet

January 2005

East 99th Street Works

Site Characterization Study of the former East 99th Street Works

Introduction

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), together with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is providing this update on the investigation activities planned for the former East 99th Street Works (currently East 98th – East 99th Street between Second Avenue and the East River) a historic manufactured gas plant. Investigation work at the site will commence in January 2005 with soil sampling along Second Avenue and East 99th Street east of Second Avenue. After the completion of those activities, additional soil and groundwater sampling will be performed at Metropolitan Hospital.

Con Edison has entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with the NYSDEC to identify, investigate and remediate, if necessary, this and other former manufactured gas plants that were previously operated by Con Edison or its corporate predecessors. The proposed work includes testing and monitoring to determine whether materials from these historic operations are present. Con Edison is working closely with the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to coordinate all site activity. Con Edison is also taking responsibility for funding the work and will make every effort to keep public inconveniences to a minimum.

What were Manufactured Gas Plants?

Manufactured gas plants were operated between the 1800s and mid-1900s, before the development of natural gas systems, to convert coal and oil into gas for heating, lighting and cooking. Byproducts of this early production process included contaminants such as tar and purifier wastes. Tar is a dark, viscous fluid with a distinctive acrid odor. Purifier wastes are materials formed during removal of other unwanted chemicals from the gas before it was sent out to customers.

The substances of concern related to these operations include BTEX compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals. BTEX compounds are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. These are volatile hydrocarbons found in MGP byproducts and also found in most petroleum products such as gasoline. PAHs are also found in MGP byproducts as well as many petroleum products, such as asphalt.

Documents related to this project are available at the following locations:

Manhattan Borough President Virginia Fields Office, One Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007; 212-669-8300, Hours: M-F 9am-5pm. 96th Street Branch, 112 E. 96th Street; New York, NY 10128; 212-289-0908; Hours: M/Th 12-8; Tues/Wed 10-6; Fri. 12-6; Sat. 10-5.

Project Status and Schedule

Initial efforts of the investigation included collection of historic information and development of a Site Characterization Study (SCS) Work Plan. Con Edison has gathered historical information and will conduct soil and groundwater sampling in accordance with the approved NYSDEC and NYSDOH work plan. The SCS work includes testing and monitoring to determine whether materials from these historical operations remain on or beneath the surface. Site characterization activities will include the collection of soil samples, installation of groundwater monitoring wells and collection of groundwater samples.

Work will commence in January 2005 with soil sampling taking place along Second Avenue and East 99th Street east of Second Avenue. After the completion of those activities, additional soil and groundwater sampling will be performed at Metropolitan Hospital.

Potential Exposure

A primary goal of these investigations is to evaluate actual and potential risk to the public through exposure to contaminants from these historical operations. Because the historical MGP operations ended many years ago and the site was redeveloped, potential residuals or soil contamination would be located at depth, below the present surface of the site. Therefore, direct contact exposure to these materials is not anticipated. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is not expected because New York City is served by a municipal water system.

During the site characterization study, extensive efforts will be made to protect the community from potential hazards. These will include placing physical barriers to prevent access to work areas and the use of real-time air monitoring in accordance with the NYSDOH's Community Air Monitoring Plan. If any contamination is found that requires remediation, a remediation plan will be developed in cooperation with the NYSDEC and NYSDOH and reviewed by the public.

Site Background

The East 99th Street Works started operating before 1878, and was closed before 1939. The available historical information on the former East 99th Street Works indicates that this site was a manufactured gas plant and gas storage facility. The site consisted of three large and one small gasholder that were constructed close to Second Avenue, with the gas manufacturing operations located further towards First Avenue. Coal storage was located on the east side of First Avenue. In 1960, Con Edison sold the site to the City of New York.

Today, the site consists of Metropolitan Hospital with surrounding landscaped areas, driveways and paved parking areas.

Public Involvement

Public understanding and involvement are integral to a successful investigation and remediation program. To provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding manufactured gas plants, Con Edison has created a series of informational resources including fact sheets, a toll-free hotline, and internet content at www.coned.com/publicissues. Information can also be found at the NYSDEC website at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/mgp. In addition, a Citizen Participation Plan has been approved by NYSDEC that outlines the steps to be taken to provide for public participation in the remedial program for the site. Document repositories for site related documents have also been established so that concerned citizens can review available information. An updated fact sheet will be issued in approximately nine months when the Site Characterization Study report detailing the findings of the investigation is approved by NYSDEC and NYSDOH and made available to the public.