COMMUNITY UPDATE

STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM | SITE NO. 203009 | FEBRUARY 2026

Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site
Ongoing Cleanup Activities

WHO TO CONTACT:

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please direct these to the following contacts:

Alan Wong
NYSDEC, Project Manager
518-402-9643
Alan.Wong@dec.ny.gov

Aine Chalmers
TRC Engineers, Inc., Project Manager
212-221-7822
AChalmers@trccompanies.com

Sarita Wagh
NYSDOH, Project Manager
518-402-7860
Sarita.Wagh@health.ny.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE:

Key Site documents, including prior DEC communication and environmental reports, can be found at: https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/203009/. Document repositories are also available at two community locations:

Woodstock Library
761 East 160th Street
Bronx, NY 10456

Bronx Community Board 1
3024 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is working closely with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) to protect public health and the environment in the Melrose area of the Bronx. DEC is continuing cleanup work to treat contaminated groundwater and eliminate the potential for indoor air contamination related to the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site, located at 753 Melrose Avenue in the Bronx.

New York State is committed to keeping the community informed about ongoing site investigation and cleanup actions. This newsletter provides an update about completed and planned activities at the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site in 2026 and beyond.

Cleanup Plan

DEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in October 2022 which detailed a cleanup program to address contamination associated with the operations of a former dry cleaner at 753 Melrose Avenue. Prior environmental investigations in the area identified the extent of contamination between 154th Street and 157th Street on Melrose Avenue. The contaminants of concern identified at this site are tetrachloroethene (PCE) and cis-1,2-dichloroethene.

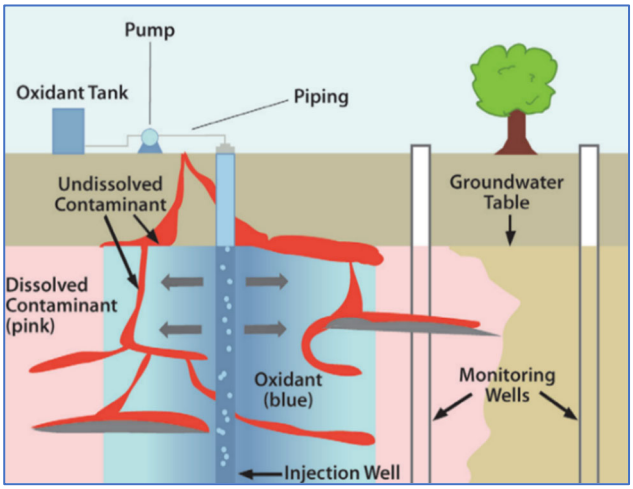
In-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) is the primary component of the cleanup. This process involves injecting amendments (called “oxidants”) into subsurface soil and groundwater to break down contaminants to nonhazardous or less toxic compounds. A full description of the cleanup plan is included in the ROD, which is available on the project website: https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/203009/.

Recent Cleanup Activities

In May 2025, DEC and its contractors began a pilot-scale study of the ISCO injections. This study serves as a preliminary test for the larger-scale groundwater cleanup approach and helps evaluate the oxidant type (potassium permanganate) and quantity needed to break down the groundwater contaminants. This information is needed to complete the design of the full-scale ISCO injection program.

After completion of the pilot-scale study, the findings of the work will be summarized in a report that will be available online and at document repository locations in the Melrose community.

Pilot-Scale Injection Activities
As part of the pilot-scale study, the oxidant was introduced into groundwater via injection into three ISCO wells. The ISCO injection wells were previously installed near or on Melrose Avenue between 155th Street and 156th Street. Injection activities took place in May and June 2025.



This graphic is a generic depiction (prepared by the US EPA) of ISCO injections. Additional details on ISCO injections can be accessed on the US EPA website: https://archive.epa.gov/ada/web/pdf/a_citizens_guide_to_in_situ_chemical_oxidation.pdf.

Community Monitoring
During injection activities, DEC implemented a Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) to ensure dust and volatile organic compounds (VOCs, the contaminants associated with the site) did not affect off-site air quality by blowing or otherwise migrating from the work area. Air monitoring data demonstrates that levels of VOCs and dust originating from the work area was not allowed to reach concentrations that would negatively impact public health in the neighborhood. CAMP results will be included in the report mentioned above. At the direction of DEC, the CAMP will also be implemented during the full-scale work at the site.

Prior to commencing the pilot-scale study, DEC contacted owners of properties located near the work area to offer indoor air quality screening during injection activities. The purpose of the indoor air quality screening was to confirm that the conditions in the subject property basement were not negatively impacted by the injection activities. Indoor screenings were performed at all properties where owners provided DEC with access. Indoor screening data demonstrates that the injection activities did not negatively impact the conditions in the properties located near the work area. At the direction of DEC, the indoor screenings will also be implemented during the full-scale work at the site.

Performance Monitoring
To evaluate the results of the 2025 pilot-scale study, performance monitoring events are underway in the work area. Groundwater samples are collected periodically from monitoring wells in the work area to evaluate reductions in contaminants of concern. The information collected during the performance monitoring events is required to complete the design of a full-scale ISCO injection program.

One performance monitoring event was conducted in July 2025. The next performance monitoring event is estimated to be conducted between February and March 2026. Before the performance monitoring event, DEC will provide the community with a notification of the scope of work and anticipated timeline.

Cleanup Timeline and Next Steps

The pilot-scale study is estimated to conclude in spring 2026, following the completion of the second performance monitoring event. The findings of the pilot-scale study will be summarized in a report that will be available online and at document repository locations in the community.

The findings of the pilot-scale study will be used to design the full-scale ISCO program, which is the larger-scale groundwater cleanup technology. The full-scale ISCO program design is estimated to begin by fall 2026. Before the completion of the design of the full-scale ISCO program, DEC will host a public meeting in the community and

provide the community with a notification of the scope of work.

Indoor Air Quality Evaluations

To ensure protection of public health, three soil vapor intrusion (SVI) investigations were conducted by DEC in coordination with DOH near the site in 2017, 2023, and most recently in 2025. The SVI investigations evaluate indoor air quality and determine if actions were needed to address the potential migration of site-related contamination into indoor air in buildings in the community surrounding the Melrose Cleaners site. SVI sampling was conducted during each investigation and actions were taken at one building, the NYPD Police Service Area 7, as a precautionary measure. No actions were warranted at the other buildings sampled. DEC is working closely with DOH and community stakeholders to obtain access to conduct additional SVI investigations in buildings overlying the identified groundwater plume. If you own a building overlying the identified groundwater plume and would like to grant DEC access to conduct an SVI investigation, please contact DEC.



Indoor air sampling equipment

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

You can have site information like this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox via DEC's listserv. Sign up to receive DEC emails for updates about ongoing cleanups at: https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters

It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you better informed. As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information and announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.