COMMUNITY UPDATE

STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM | SITE NO. 203009 | MARCH 2025

Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site Ongoing Cleanup Activities and Community Availability Session

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 continues cleanup work to treat contaminated groundwater and the potential for indoor air contamination through soil vapor related to the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site, located at 753 Melrose Avenue in the Bronx.

COMMUNITY AVAILABILITY SESSION

Wednesday, March 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Mott Haven Educational Campus Auditorium

730 Concourse Village W, Bronx, NY 10451

DEC invites you to this discussion about cleanup activities about to begin at the site. Drop in any time during the session to ask questions and discuss the upcoming site activities.

For more on State availability sessions, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XomDsUkc_k

DEC has established a new webpage for the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner site:

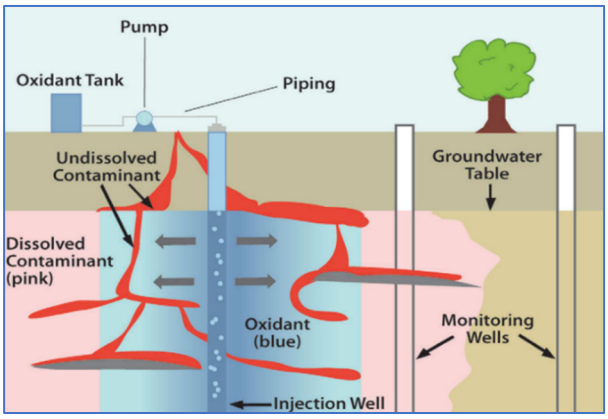
https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/region-2/former-melrose-dry-cleaners

New York State is committed to keeping the community informed about ongoing investigation and cleanup actions associated with the former Melrose Dry Cleaner Site. DEC will host a community availability session on March 26, 2025, where Melrose residents can interact with DEC and DOH staff, ask questions pertaining to ongoing efforts.

Cleanup Program

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 Ave. 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 soil and groundwater to break down contaminants to nonhazardous or less toxic compounds. A full description of the cleanup plan is available in the ROD and summarized in the November 2023 community update, both available at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/203009/.



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

Progress to Date

To prepare for implementation of the ISCO program, DEC and its engineer performed field activities (called a Pre-Design Investigation) were completed between April and August 2024 and included:

- Inspection of existing groundwater monitoring wells associated with the site.
- Groundwater samples were collected from select wells for laboratory analysis.
- Installation of a groundwater monitoring well south of the existing monitoring well network (near Melrose Avenue and 153rd Street). A groundwater sample from this well was collected for laboratory analysis. The purpose of the additional groundwater monitoring well is to better define the extent of groundwater contamination.

Drill rig utilized to install a groundwater monitoring well.

DEC will be implementing an ISCO Pilot-Scale Study in the spring of 2025. The study is small test of the eventual larger cleanup approach to groundwater contamination to inform selection of the oxidant and amount of oxidant needed to break down the contaminants and complete the design of a full-scale ISCO injection program. DEC began preparation for the ISCO Pilot-Scale Study in July 2024, and progress to date includes:

- **Installation of three ISCO injection wells** for introduction of oxidant into groundwater.
- **Collection of soil and groundwater samples** for laboratory analysis (i.e. bench scale evaluations) to identify the best oxidant(s) for the ISCO program.

After completion of the ISCO 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 community.

Collection of a groundwater sample from ISCO injection well.

Community Air Monitoring Program

During ground-intrusive field activities (i.e., well installation), a Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) was implemented to ensure that 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 discussed above. At the direction of DEC, the CAMP will also be implemented during upcoming pilot and full-scale work at the site.

Remediation Program Timeline and Next Steps

The ISCO Pilot-Scale Study is currently scheduled to start in Spring 2025. Before beginning the study, DEC will provide the community a notification of the scope of work and anticipated timeline.

Indoor Air Quality Evaluations

In 2017 and 2023, soil vapor intrusion (SVI) investigations were conducted to evaluate indoor air quality and whether actions were needed to address the potential for site-related contamination in air beneath and within buildings in the surrounding community. VOCs in soil vapor may move into overlying buildings and affect the indoor air quality. This process, which is similar to the movement of radon gas from the subsurface into the indoor air of buildings, is referred to as soil vapor intrusion. SVI sampling was conducted during that time and actions were taken at one building, the NYPD Police Service Area 7, as a precautionary measure. No actions were warranted at the other building sampled. DEC is working closely with DOH and community stakeholders to obtain access to conduct additional soil vapor intrusion evaluations in buildings overlying the identified groundwater plume.

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: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE:

Key Site documents, including prior DEC communication and environmental reports, can be found at: https://www.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

ISCO PROGRAM – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- *What can community members expect to see or hear during implementation of the clean-up?*
  During the implementation of the ISCO Pilot-Scale Study Program, community members may see or hear drilling equipment and tanker trucks near the Site. Monitoring (i.e., air quality, visual inspections, etc.) will be conducted during the work to ensure there are no adverse impacts to air quality or the community. Community members may also see environmental technicians collecting groundwater samples from wells located near the Site to monitor remedial progress.

- *Will my drinking water be impacted by the ISCO Program?*
  No, the ISCO program will not impact the public water supply in the area. Under Article 141 of the NYC Department of Health code (NYCDOH), groundwater may not be utilized for potable/drinking purposes (i.e., not ingested). The community's drinking water comes from a separate source.

WHO TO CONTACT:

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

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