



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## E. 11<sup>TH</sup> St MGP Site (231110)

New York State is overseeing the comprehensive cleanup of subsurface contamination at the Jacob Riis Housing properties. A Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) was in operation on and near Jacob Riis from approximately 1858 to 1933. As a result of the gas manufacturing process at that time, coal tar (a by-product of the process) and its components were left in deep soils and groundwater at this site. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), is overseeing the work being conducted by Con Edison (ConEd) to address this contamination to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.

### NYSDEC MGP CLEANUP

DEC finalized the cleanup plan in July 2024 to include:

- Replacement of approximately 5,000 cubic yards of surface soil;
- Implementation of a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground-intrusive activities;
- Installation of a concrete floor in the storage room of Building 4 (1223 – 1225 FDR Drive);
- Installation of approximately 12 coal tar recovery (removal) wells across the site; and
- Implementation of a Site Management Plan to ensure the long-term maintenance and effectiveness monitoring of the cleanup systems.

### ENFORCEMENT ACTION

This summer, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) installed concrete slabs, reportedly for pest management, at several Riis Houses, including Building 4. DEC was not notified until late November that this excavation and construction work occurred in the vicinity of the planned cleanup. DEC investigated and determined NYCHA did not comply with the State's notice and work plan requirements.

On December 17, 2025, DEC issued a Notice of Violation to NYCHA for the removal of soil and improper installation of the concrete floor in the basement of Building 4 without prior DEC notification. While some NYCHA actions, including concrete floor construction and air monitor implementation, were similar to activities DEC was requiring of ConEd, deficiencies exist which interfered with successful implementation of the full cleanup plan.

DEC is coordinating directly with ConEd and NYCHA to address the violations, ensure proper notification of any future work planned, and evaluate changes needed to the site's cleanup plan to ensure it will be fully protective of public health and the environment.

### UPCOMING WORK

DEC has commented on a work plan to install planned collection wells and collect new surface soil samples to fully delineate the area around the buildings where soil removal will occur. ConEd will submit a revised work plan and that work is planned to occur as originally expected in Spring 2026.

### FOR PROJECT-RELATED CLEANUP QUESTIONS:

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