

Gowanus Canal Area Wide Soil Vapor Intrusion Investigation

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is working closely with the State Department of Health (DOH) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to undertake the comprehensive investigation and cleanup of former industrial sites near the Gowanus Canal. New York State is committed to keeping the community informed about ongoing cleanup actions and efforts to address legacy contamination in the Gowanus neighborhood. This community update provides information about an upcoming public meeting and community resources to learn more about the State's expanded efforts to protect indoor air quality. DEC and DOH are assessing properties where legacy contamination may be affecting indoor air quality in buildings in the Gowanus Canal Area with an expanded soil vapor intrusion (SVI) investigation. SVI is a process by which chemicals underground can enter the indoor air of a building through the basement, crawlspace, or slab.

At the November 17 public meeting, DEC and DOH experts will discuss the 2025/2026 heating season sampling and upcoming activities for the 2026/2027 heating season to help inform Gowanus residents and other stakeholders. New York State Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon and her staff will then help facilitate a question-and-answer session with attendees.

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, November 17, 7-9 p.m.
P.S. 372 – The Children's School
Gymnasium – 215 1st Street

Join DEC and DOH, in cooperation with Senator Gounardes, Assemblymember Simon & Councilmember Hanif, to learn about the Gowanus Canal Area Wide Soil Vapor Intrusion Investigation.

More: <http://dec.ny.gov/gowanus>

SVI Investigation

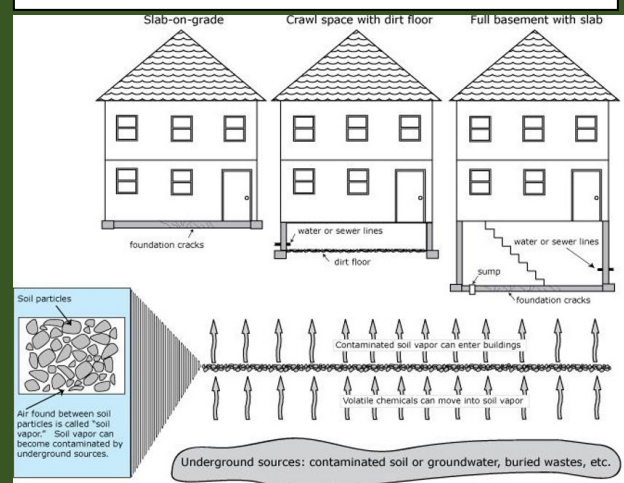
DEC's expanded sampling effort builds upon an investigation started in 2023 to more fully assess the

potential for SVI from contamination at various brownfield cleanup sites in the Gowanus area.

What is Soil Vapor Intrusion (SVI)?

Soil vapor intrusion is a process by which chemicals in the subsurface can enter the indoor air of a building through the basement, crawlspace, or slab, as depicted in the below graphic. New York State requires comprehensive evaluations of indoor air quality whenever these contaminants are detected at a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) site.

How Soil Vapor Intrusion Enters Different Types of Buildings



Please see the map on page 3 for the Gowanus SVI study area. The planned sampling approach for the upcoming 2026/2027 heating season will focus on resoliciting all properties that have not responded, conducting sampling on buildings where requested, as well as resampling certain properties for post-system installation monitoring.

A report compiling the Gowanus Canal Area Wide 2025/2026 heating season sampling is posted on DECInfo Locator at: [Gowanus Canal Site Vapor Intrusion/Indoor Air Sampling Report for the 2025/2026 Heating Season](#).

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCED

November 17, 7-9 PM



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

OCTOBER 2026

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The report details the total number of buildings solicited for soil vapor intrusion sampling (1,784), the number of buildings sampled during the 2025-2026 heating season (82), properties requiring mitigation (6), and an overview of the results.

Systems Installed

When soil vapor intrusion sampling results indicate mitigation is needed for buildings participating in the State's investigations, a DEC contractor installs a vapor intrusion mitigation system or other acceptable measures, at no cost to the property owner or residents. These systems are tailored to individual building conditions. After installation, additional sampling is conducted to verify the system is effective at preventing contamination from impacting indoor air quality.

Of the 44 buildings requiring mitigation (total), 19 system installations were completed, two properties declined mitigation, 16 are currently in design or installation, and seven properties are in queue for design. After installation of the SVI mitigation system, DEC will perform additional indoor air testing to confirm that the system is functioning as designed.

To Sign Up For SVI Sampling

If you are a **property owner** in the Gowanus Canal Area who has not yet responded to New York State's offer for indoor air sampling and are interested, contact Aaron Fischer, P.E. by email at aaron.fischer@dec.ny.gov or by phone at (518) 598-7799.

If you are a **tenant** in a building and would like sampling, contact your landlord/property owner to request that the property owner comply with sampling requests. Contact Aaron Fischer, P.E. by email at aaron.fischer@dec.ny.gov or by phone at (518) 598-7799. DEC and DOH will work with tenants and the owners of other properties in the area to conduct additional investigations as appropriate.

For more information on New York's environmental investigation and cleanup actions in the Gowanus Canal area, visit

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/127317.html>

Contact DEC for Soil Vapor Intrusion Sampling

WHO TO CONTACT

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Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this community update sent right to your email inbox. DEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated site email listservs 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.

LISTSERV: SIGN UP TO STAY INFORMED

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>



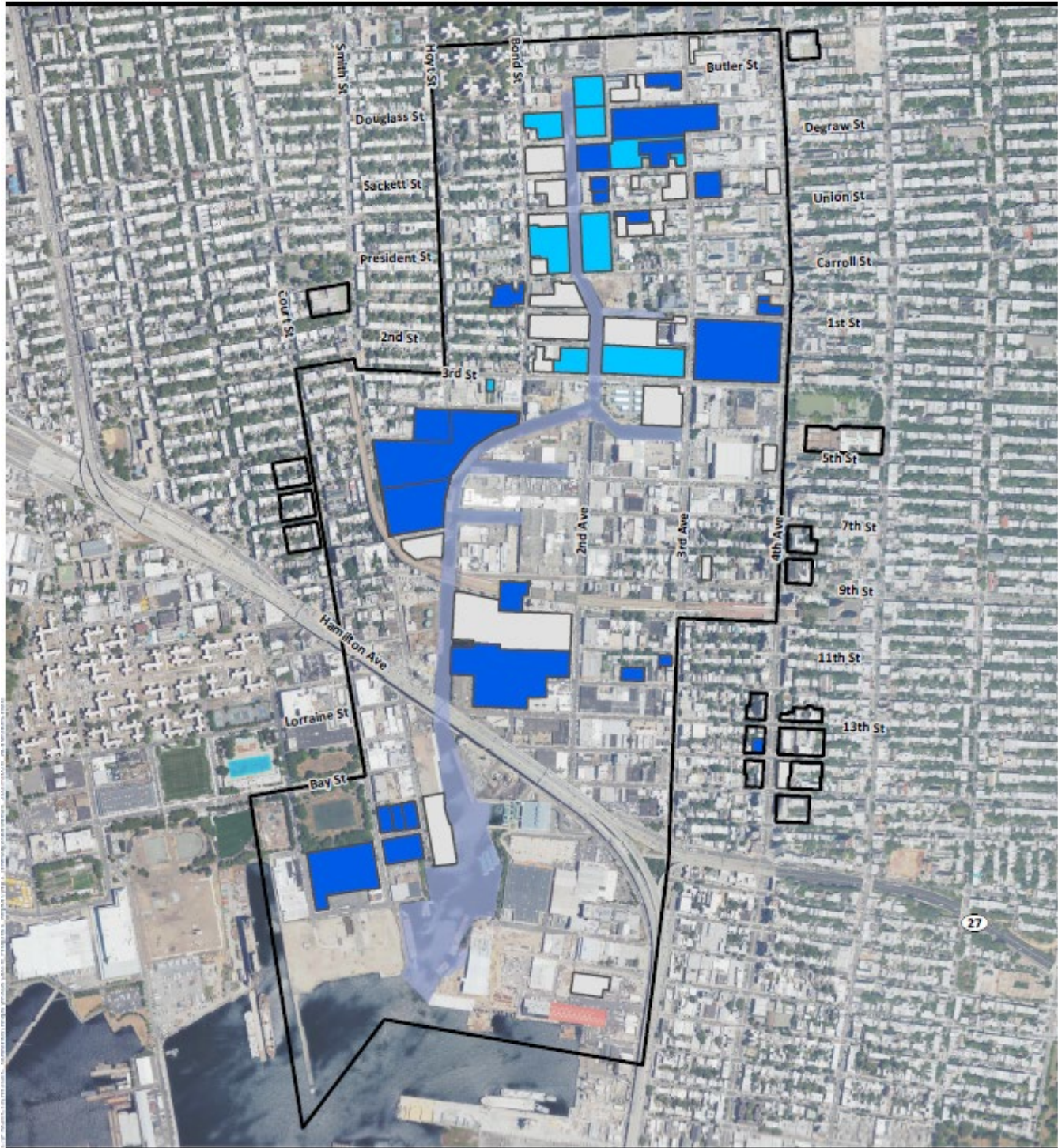


Figure 1
Gowanus Canal
SVI Investigation Area

NEW YORK STATE
Department of
Environmental
Conservation
PREPARED BY:
PwC Technology and environment
engineering and geology p.c.
0 500 1,000
Feet
Sources: Kings County 2023, Esri 2021,
NYSDEC 2025



- Gowanus Canal
- Gowanus Canal Area Wide
Soil Vapor Intrusion (SVI) Boundary
- NYSDEC Remediation Site Boundaries
- Ongoing
- Substantially Complete
- Complete

Gowanus Canal Area
Brooklyn, New York