



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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Former Spic and Span Cleaners & Dyers
Site ID No. 224129
Brooklyn, NY

March 2011

Investigation Begins at State Superfund Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has begun a detailed environmental study at the former Spic and Span Cleaners & Dyers site ("the site") located at 307-325 Kingsland Avenue and 260 Norman Avenue in Brooklyn. See the enclosed map for the site's location.

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Highlights of the Remedial Investigation

The study being done at the site is called a "Remedial Investigation," and will be performed under New York's State Superfund Program. The investigation work plan is called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan" and is available for public review at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information".

The remedial investigation has several goals:

- 1) define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected
- 2) identify the source(s) of the contamination
- 3) assess the impact of the contamination on public health and the environment
- 4) provide information to support the development of a proposed remedy to address the contamination.

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC generally attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

Background

The site is located in a mixed residential-commercial-industrial area of the Greenpoint section of Kings County (Borough of Brooklyn, New York City). The site is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Kingsland and Norman Avenues. The site is completely covered by multiple buildings of

varying construction and height. The site is currently occupied, and is utilized for a variety of purposes (residential, warehousing, woodworking shop, etc.). A large residential area is located immediately adjacent to the site, and extends south along both Kingsland Avenue and Monitor Street.

The NYSDEC began a Site Characterization (a preliminary investigation) in this area during the Spring of 2007 as part of a larger area-wide investigation (Meeker Avenue Plume Trackdown, DEC Site ID No. 224121). This investigation ran through the Summer of 2009, and was conducted in several phases. This particular location was specifically targeted for investigation based on Sanborn fire insurance map data indicating the site was formerly operated by Spic and Span Cleaners and Dyers, Inc. (a.k.a. Eastern District Dye Works) from the early 1900's until the mid-1960's.

The primary contaminant of concern identified at this site is tetrachloroethene (PCE). This chemical is primarily used in the dry cleaning industry, and by companies who manufacture metal parts. PCE has been found at high levels in groundwater immediately beneath the site. In addition, soil vapor (the gas located between soil particles below ground) has been found to contain elevated levels of PCE in certain locations surrounding the site.

Based on the history of PCE usage at the property, the existence of high levels of PCE-contaminated groundwater beneath the site, and the potential for this contamination to migrate off-site into the adjacent residential area, this site was listed as a class 2 site in the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites as of January 2009.

The current remedial investigation began in January 2011, and will continue for approximately 18 months. During that time, the NYSDEC will conduct extensive testing of the soil, groundwater, and soil vapor in and around the site in order to determine the full nature and extent of contamination coming from this location.

Next Steps

The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a "Remedial Investigation Report". After the remedial investigation has been completed, NYSDEC will conduct a "Feasibility Study". This study uses information developed during the remedial investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination related to the site. Another possibility is that the information collected during the remedial investigation may support the conclusion that no action, or no further action, is needed to address site-related contamination.

NYSDEC then develops a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan". This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC, or a no action or no further action alternative. The draft cleanup plan summarizes the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will present the draft cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed. These documents include the investigation work plan.

Brooklyn Public Library – Greenpoint Branch

107 Norman Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11222

Hours of Operation:

Mon, Tues, Fri: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Wed: 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Thurs: 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Sa: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Su: closed

Brooklyn Community Board #1

435 Graham Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11222

Call for an appointment:

(718) 389 - 0009

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions

David Harrington

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

625 Broadway, 12th Floor

Albany, NY 12233-7016

(518) 402 - 9767

(888) 212 - 9586

dkharrin@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Dawn Hettrick

New York State Department of Health
547 River Street

Troy, NY 12180

(800) 458 – 1158, extension 2 - 7860

deh02@health.state.ny.us

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox.

NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page:

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/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

