



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Red Hook Smith Street
627 Smith Street
659 Smith Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231

May 2019

SITE No. C224163
NYSDEC REGION 2

Where to Find Information:

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed.

**Brooklyn Public Library
Central Library**
10 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(718) 230-2100

Brooklyn Community Board 6
250 Baltic Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 643-3027

Red Hook Library
7 Wolcott Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
(718) 935-0203

Who to Contact:

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

Project-Related Questions
William Wu, Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway Floor 11
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518) 402-9662
william.wu@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions
Stephanie Selmer
NYSDOH – BEEI
Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
beei@health.ny.gov

For more information about New York's
Brownfield Cleanup Program, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

Interim Remedial Measure Proposed; Public Comment Period Announced

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is proposing an expedited cleanup of contamination at the Red Hook Smith Street site ("site") located at 627 & 659 Smith Street, Brooklyn, Kings County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site including the draft Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) Work Plan can be found at the locations identified to the left under "Where to Find Information." NYSDEC is conducting a public comment period because this IRM is likely to represent a significant part of the cleanup for the site. The expedited cleanup activities are expected to begin in June 2019 and will last about 5 to 6 months. The activities will be performed by Red Hook Developers Holdings, LLC ("applicant") with oversight provided by NYSDEC.

How to Comment: NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from **May 8** through **June 7, 2019**. The proposed plan is available for public review at the locations identified at left under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

Draft Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) Work Plan: An IRM is a cleanup activity that may be performed when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation.

The draft IRM work plan describes proposed cleanup activities that include:

- Installation of a new, sealed-seam, steel sheet pile cutoff wall along the site's entire waterfront along the Gowanus Canal. The cutoff wall will serve as a containment/cutoff wall against coal tar and hydrocarbon product migration towards the Gowanus Canal. The cutoff wall will be driven down to about 66 feet below ground surface;
- Following site-wide remediation efforts, installation of recovery wells inland of the new bulkhead cutoff wall to intercept and collect any remaining bulk coal tar and hydrocarbon product before reaching the cutoff wall;
- Excavation and off-site disposal of soil generated during construction of the new, sealed-seam, steel sheet pile cutoff wall;
- Backfilling excavated areas, as necessary, to site grade using fill that meets NYSDEC requirements;
- Development and execution of a Construction Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) and Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) for the protection of on-site workers and the nearby community during remediation and construction activities;

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- A Construction Completion Report will be prepared that documents satisfactory implementation of the IRM Work Plan; and
- It is anticipated that the IRM will be completed in advance of the final site remedy. As required, contamination not addressed by this IRM Work Plan will be addressed in a forthcoming Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP). The IRM described herein will be performed in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Site Description: The site is located along the Gowanus Canal at the mouth of the Gowanus Bay. The site waterfront makes up about 750 linear feet of the Gowanus Canal. The approximately 85,400-square-foot site was formerly developed with an approximately 63,500-square-foot one-story warehouse that was demolished in early 2018. Remaining site features include an asphalt-paved parking lot and concrete slabs and foundations associated with the former warehouse. The site was historically occupied by various industrial and manufacturing uses including production of coal tar-based roofing materials (1900's to 1938), cargo storage and shipping (1900's to 1990's), an ice company (early 1900's), and a real estate company (1910's). The site was most recently utilized as a cargo storage facility until circa 2007.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID- C224163) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/EXTAPPS/DEREXTERNAL/INDEX.CFM?PAGEID=3>

Summary of the Investigation: The primary contaminants of concern at the site are coal tar and its associated hydrocarbon-related volatile organic compounds (VOC) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC) in soil and groundwater. Grossly-contaminated coal tar/creosote saturated soil and fill was identified in the central and western portion of the site and is generally concentrated near the location of former coal tar tanks based on historic Sanborn fire insurance maps, along the up-gradient western site border, and near the Gowanus Canal. The grossly-impacted material contains VOCs, and SVOCs. Grossly-impacted material was found as deep as 46 feet below ground surface and as shallow as a few feet below surface pavement.

Next Steps: NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and approve the IRM work plan in consultation with the NYSDOH. The approved work plan will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" on the front page).

When the expedited cleanup activities are completed, a Construction Completion Report will be prepared that documents the activities that were performed.

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

Brownfield Cleanup Program: New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses. A brownfield site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by DEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations.

For more information about the BCP, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>

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

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

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Site Location Map

