



# FACT SHEET

## Brownfield Cleanup Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email*. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

**Site Name:** Former Universal Scrap Metal Processors Corp.

**DEC Site #:** C224210

**Address:** 1181 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237

Have questions?  
See  
"Who to Contact"  
Below

### **Remedial Investigation Report Available; Remedy Proposed for Brownfield Site Contamination; Public Comment Period Announced**

The public is invited to comment on a proposed remedy being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address contamination related to the Former Universal Scrap Metal Processors Corp. site ("site") in Brooklyn, NY. Please see the map for the site location, which shows the previous site boundary, and the current site boundary which was amended on August 2, 2017. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

The cleanup activities will be performed and funded by Flushing Stewart LLC ("applicant") with oversight provided by NYSDEC. When NYSDEC is satisfied that cleanup requirements have been achieved, the applicant may be eligible for tax credits to offset the costs of performing cleanup activities and for redevelopment of the site.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>  
Enter the site code (located above, next to "DEC Site #"), then click on "Submit".

#### **How to Comment**

**NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed cleanup plan for 45 days, from August 10, 2017 through September 24, 2017.** The draft Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) containing the proposed site remedy is available for public review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

#### **Summary of Proposed Remedy**

The proposed remedy consists of site-wide excavation of all soils exceeding Unrestricted Use Soil Cleanup Objectives (UUSCOs) within the top 15 feet. Additional excavation to a depth of 25 feet will occur in the western corner of the site to remove petroleum-related source material that is impacting site groundwater. The amount of soil requiring removal is anticipated to be approximately 15,275 cubic yards. Excavation dewatering will be required due to the shallow depth of groundwater, approximately 12 feet below grade. Water pumped from dewatering will be sampled to determine how effective the excavation addressed groundwater contamination and will inform the potential need for additional groundwater treatment.

## **Remedial Investigation Report**

NYSDEC has reviewed the “Remedial Investigation Report” that was submitted by Flushing Stewart LLC ("applicant(s)"). The report describes the results of the site investigation and recommends development of a remedy to address the contamination that was found. The report is available at the location(s) identified below under “Where to Find Information.”

### **Highlights of the Remedial Investigation Report**

Soil and groundwater were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, pesticides, and poly-chlorinated biphenyl's (PCBs). Soil vapor was analyzed for VOCs. Petroleum-related VOCs are present in subsurface soils above Commercial Use Soil Cleanup Objectives and/or the Protection of Groundwater Soil Cleanup Objectives (CUSCOs/PGWSCOs), as applicable. Groundwater is also impacted with petroleum-related VOCs at concentrations above groundwater standards. The majority of the contamination is down-gradient of the former underground storage tank area near Flushing Avenue. In addition to petroleum-related VOCs, poly-cyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals were detected in subsurface soils as a result of the historic fill that is present throughout the site.

Tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene were detected in two monitoring wells, with the highest concentrations at 8.1 and 7.4 parts per billion (ppb), respectively compared to a groundwater standard of 5 ppb. Vinyl chloride was detected in several soil gas samples, at concentrations up to 2,530 micrograms per cubic meter. Based on the findings of the investigation, NYSDEC, in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has determined that the site does not pose a significant threat to public health or the environment.

### **Next Steps**

NYSDEC will consider public comments received on the proposed remedy presented in the draft RAWP and ultimately issue a final Decision Document. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) must also concur with the remedy. The final Remedial Action Work Plan (with revisions if necessary) and the Decision Document will be made available to the public. The applicant(s) may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH. NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

### **Background**

**Location:** The Former Universal Scrap Metal Processors Corp. site is located in an urban area in the East Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY. The irregularly-shaped site has approximately 109 ft. of street frontage on Flushing Avenue and 203 feet of street frontage on Stewart Avenue.

**Site Features:** The property was partially developed with a 1-story 4,500 square foot commercial building which was constructed in 1931, but demolished in 2016. The site is currently vacant.

**Current Zoning and Land Use:** The site is located in a M1-2 zone which allows nearly all

industrial type uses. Additional uses are allowed, including office, hotel, and retail. M1 districts are often buffers between M2 or M3 districts and adjacent residential or commercial districts. The scrap metal operation which previously occupied the building and property no longer operates, and the site is vacant.

**Past Use of the Site:** The entire property was used as a railroad freight yard from sometime between 1888 and 1907 to sometime between 1951 and 1965. The south end of the site was utilized as a filling station from approximately 1955 until at least 2003. The southern portion of the site and the building were used for auto repair from 1955 until 2007. The northern portion of the property was used as an auto scrap yard from 1981 through 2007. From 2007 through 2014 the property was used as a scrap metal facility.

**Site Geology and Hydrogeology:** Soil at the site is described as historic fill to a depth of approximately 4 feet below the surface followed by native brown fine sand with silt. The bedrock in this area of Brooklyn is an igneous intrusive classified as the Ravenswood granodiorite of middle Ordovician to middle Cambrian age. Unconsolidated sediments overlie the bedrock and consist of Pleistocene aged sand, gravel and silty clays, deposited by glacial-fluvial activity. Non-native fill materials consisting of dredge spoils, rubble and/or other materials have historically been used to reinforce and extend shoreline areas and to raise and improve the drainage of low lying areas.

Depth to groundwater at the site is approximately 12 feet below grade and flows to the north/northeast, toward the English Kills Channel. Groundwater flow is also highly variable as it may be influenced by the subway tunnel which runs underground north of the site.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Where to Find Information**

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

**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 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>

Brooklyn Public Library- Bushwick Branch  
340 Bushwick Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11206  
Tel: (718) 602-1348

Brooklyn Community Board 1  
435 Graham Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
Tel: (718) 389-0009

## Who to Contact

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

### Project-Related Questions

Kyle Forster

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Remediation

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-7016

Tel: 518-402-8644

Email: kyle.forster@dec.ny.gov

### Site-Related Health Questions

Eamonn O'Neil

New York State Department of Health

Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation

Empire State Plaza - Corning Tower Room 1787

Albany, NY 12237

518-402-7860

BEEI@health.ny.gov

**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.

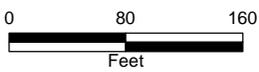
NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

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.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



# Figure 1 Site Map

Former Universal Scrap  
Brooklyn, NY  
Site No. C224210

