From:	Wendy Brawer
To:	Sobol, Sydney A (DEC); Harvey Epstein; doh.sm.BEEI; john.blasco@mail.house.gov
Cc:	Wendy Brawer
Subject:	Re: E. 11th St MGP- Site No. 231110 comments
Date:	Tuesday, April 25, 2023 4:14:10 PM
Attachments:	Screen Shot 2023-04-21 at 9.54.32 AM.png Screen Shot 2023-04-21 at 4.32.57 PM.png

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Thank you for following up, and here is my comment Sydney, I am CCing and Steven Berninger, and Assemblymember Epstein and John Blasco, who were present at the hearing.

I'm frequently on Ave D as I walk through Wald and Riis campuses from my workspace to East River Park. As a member of the ESCR CAG, I stay abreast of upcoming public works, and came to the 4/11/23 hearing to learn about your findings and plans.

Firstly, if you are requesting comments, why wasn't a slide provided at this hearing with a clear and transparent process for getting a response? Are comments and responses to be made public? How will the slideshow become publicly available? Are you holding another public event during the comment period?

Both the handout and an initial slide showed brownfields or otherwise contaminated areas OU2, OU3 adjacent to Riis Houses, yet not a word about their condition, planned or past remediation, nor how a child or adult might avoid being exposed there to arsenic or other chemicals.

Would encouraging people to avoid tracking residue into their homes help protect public health? I'm suggesting a simple campaign to take off street shoes at home. This would also address the forthcoming dust from the multiyear Parallel Conveyance construction along Ave D, as well as your remediation work. Climate concerns around overheating, flooding etc impact Riis residents already. How will the years of work nearby, including the construction of the oversized concrete FDR overpass at 10th street and the new X-shaped pinch point bridge, impact their quality of life?

Not everyone knows there is more MGP residue inside East River Park, in the area closest to Riis Houses. I'm attaching a part of the related Figure from the 2019 SANDRESM1_Supplemental Investigation Report_2019.08.29-4, and even at 0-2 feet, there are exceedances. Much of the ground nearby has been disturbed recently, as you know, and more excavation will soon be happening just across from Riis.

As the accessible areas of the park shrink, more people are using this area, especially NYCHA residents, and especially for picnics and parties by the grills. Go in the park on a sunny day now and you will see people and pets sitting on the ground, relaxing, snacking, etc. However, there is no information about the possible health effects, no suggestions to wash hands etc, like this bilingual signage (below) from Staten Island's Veteran Park. When I was there in 2014, there were more permanent, official signs about the contamination there.

Isn't it time that NYS do more to protect vulnerable residents?

That may seem rather basic and not necessary, but at the hearing, we all heard a resident

express surprise at the suggestion to let the tap run a few moments before drinking. This is something I have been doing for decades, knowing the building could have lead pipes, even if the water quality at the source is fine. I was surprised when he asked if Riis residents were the only ones to have to do this. I raised my hand - no one called on me. I see you have information online, but can't you do more to help residents get in the habit of letting the water become cold and avoid using hot water for tea, baby formula, etc? Adding a water filter/ pitcher for drinking water could make it taste better, too.

Your handout mentioned - Implementation of a Health and Safety Plan - does this speak directly to local residents or is this for the construction crews?

My most important comment is to inform and involve people in protecting their health and indoor air quality by leaving shoes by the door on entry, washing hands, safer cleaning and dusting, and closing windows to keep dust out during working hours. This education and awareness campaign costs little but could help lower anxiety, asthma and other illnesses, and inspire healthy habits. What agency will take on this role?

During the hearing, I heard a request for real time indoor air quality monitors. I know that community residents have asked for air cleaners, but these requests were turned down. The proximity to the FDR alone is reason enough for a cleaner air at home campaign.

I ask you to make this period of construction and remediation a turning point for better public health.
I look forward to your response.

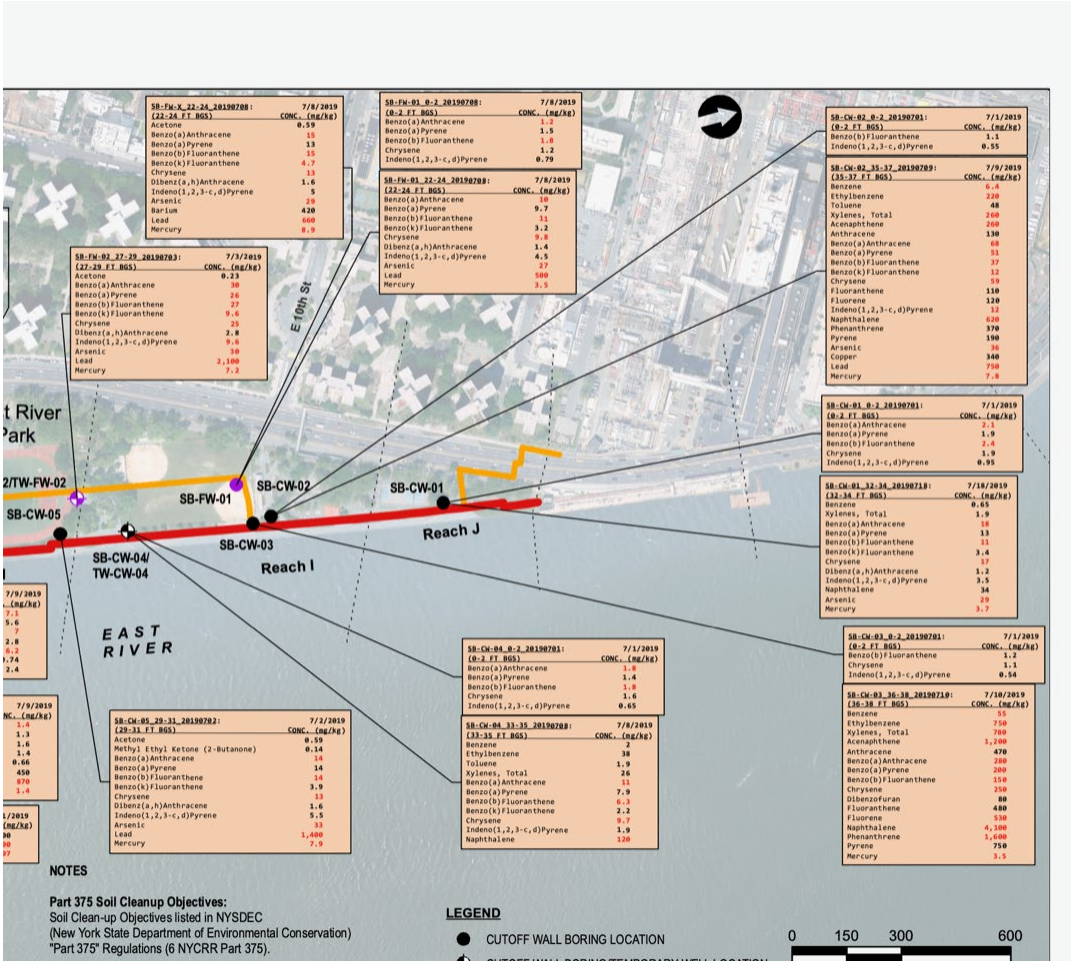
Wendy Brawer
work - 292 East 3rd Street
212 674 1631
web@greenmap.org

SILive.com

City taking steps to make sure tainted soil at Port Richmond park is safe - silive.com

Visit

Images may be subject to copyright. **Learn More**



On Apr 12, 2023, at 1:23 PM, Sobol, Sydney A (DEC) <Sydney.Sobol@dec.ny.gov> wrote:

Hi Wendy,

I just received your voicemail. There isn't a link to submit a comment so you can just directly reply to this email with your comment. You also mentioned that your email got rejected, so if you have that issue again just give me a call at 518-402-4799.

Let me know if you need help with anything else!

Best,

Sydney Sobol
she / any pronouns
Project Manager, Division of Environmental Remediation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1010
518-402-4799 | sydney.sobol@dec.ny.gov
www.dec.ny.gov | <image001.jpg> | <image002.png> | <image003.png>