NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Dear Interested Citizen:
This Fact Sheet is to inform you about the ongoing activities associated with the West Side Corporation site. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Mr. David Chiusano
NYSDEC Project Manager -
Soil and Groundwater Cleanup
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7017
(518) 402-9814

or

Mr. Eric Hausamann
NYSDEC Project Manager -
Soil Vapor Intrusion
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7017
(888) 459-8667

For site related health questions, please contact the following New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) representative:

Ms. Stephanie Selmer
NYSDOH Project Manager
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
(800) 458-1158 Ext. 2-7860

Additional Information:
You may view project documents at the Queensborough Public Library located at 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, (718) 990-0778

You can also learn more about vapor intrusion at NYSDEC's website:
www.dec.ny.gov

FACT SHEET

APRIL 2008
Site No. 2-41-026

WEST SIDE CORP. SITE
JAMAICA, QUEENS
NEW YORK CITY

EXPANDED GROUNDWATER QUALITY INVESTIGATION OPERABLE UNIT 2, OFF-SITE PLUME

The NYSDEC and the NYSDOH have developed this fact sheet to provide an update on the status of the ongoing off-site environmental investigations associated with the West Side Corporation inactive hazardous waste disposal site.

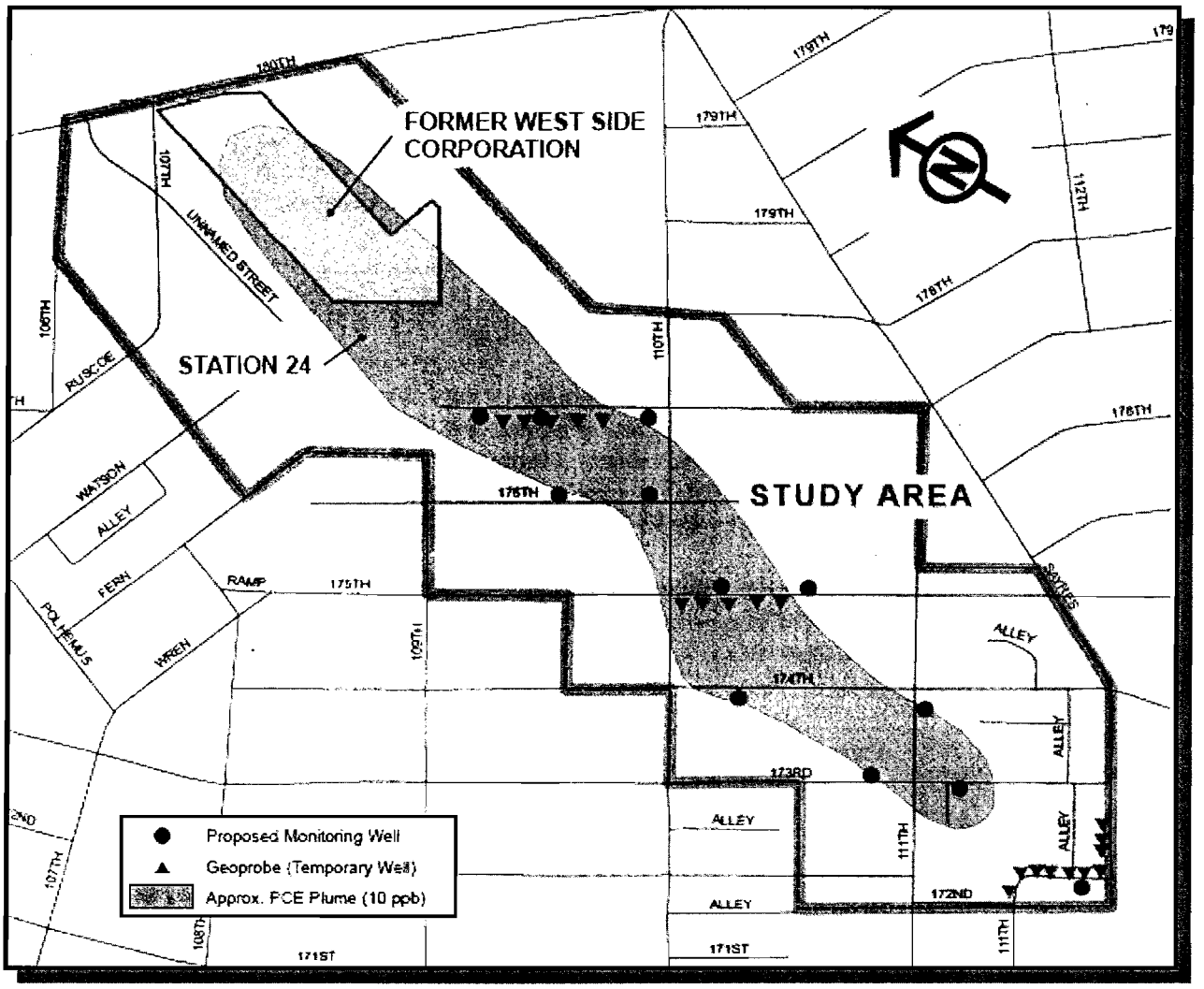
Site Background: The West Side Corporation property was once used as a storage and distribution center for chemicals used in the dry cleaning industry, including tetrachloroethene (PCE). As a result, groundwater and subsurface soils were contaminated by spills of PCE. Cleanup of highly-contaminated on-site soils was completed in 2006. Cleanup of the groundwater in the vicinity of the site is anticipated to begin next year with the installation and start-up of two groundwater extraction wells located on the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's (NYCDEP's) Station 24 property. As part of the cleanup effort, a network of additional groundwater monitoring wells will also be installed to monitor the off-site plume of dissolved PCE.

Over the past three years, the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH have been testing the air in dozens of homes near the former West Side facility to monitor the effects of vapor intrusion. While significant impacts to indoor air have not generally been observed, the *potential* for exposure, as evidenced by elevated PCE levels detected beneath many homes, does exist. To mitigate these potential exposures to vapors, the State has installed a number of vapor mitigation systems (similar to radon systems). Until the groundwater extraction system (described below) is up and running and the groundwater is cleaned up, there remains the potential for vapors to migrate into structures overlying the PCE plume.

Plume Delineation Activities: Because contaminated groundwater is the source of the PCE vapors potentially impacting structures within the Study Area, the nature and extent of the off-site contaminant plume must be defined and monitored. Last year (March 2007) the NYSDEC installed 49 temporary groundwater probes to gain a preliminary understanding of the full extent of the plume. The results indicated that the off-site PCE plume is fairly narrow, however it appears to extend beyond 111th Avenue and 173rd Street (see figure on back).

After evaluating the results of the March 2007 groundwater sampling, the NYSDEC and NYSDOH determined that homes situated above the centerline of the plume needed to be tested. This past winter, vapor intrusion samples were collected from more than 60 structures. The results indicate that homes as far south as 172nd Street may potentially be impacted. Based on these results, several homeowners have been offered a mitigation system. Other homes will be sampled again next winter to confirm this year's results. The NYSDOH has sent the sampling results and, where appropriate, recommendations for further actions to the residents whose homes were tested. (Note: If your house was sampled last winter but you have not yet received your results, please call the NYSDOH Project Manager at the number listed to the left.)

Upcoming Groundwater Investigation: In an effort to further delineate the extent of the PCE plume and to establish a baseline prior to start-up of the groundwater extraction system, the NYSDEC will be installing a network of additional monitoring wells throughout the Study Area as shown in the figure below. The work will commence in the next week or two and should be completed by the end of May. The work will involve the use of truck-mounted equipment to install 20 temporary wells and 31 new monitoring wells in the approximate locations indicated in the figure. In addition, several existing wells (not shown) will be redeveloped. The wells will be sampled at regular intervals over the next several years.



Groundwater Extraction System - Construction Phase: As part of the Brooklyn-Queens Aquifer (BQA) Feasibility Study, the NYCDEP has been working with NYSDEC to clean up the off-site PCE plume. As part of this cooperative effort, the NYCDEP has designed and will construct the off-site groundwater (Operable Unit No. 2) remedy. The remedy consists of the installation and long-term operation of two groundwater extraction wells at the NYCDEP Station 24 facility. Extracted water will be treated in accordance with State standards before being discharged, via the storm sewer, into Jamaica Bay.

NYCDEP has completed remedial design of the OU2 Station 24 remedy and will soon undertake construction of the remedy. Construction activities are expected to commence this summer and treatment system start-up is expected to occur next year (2009). The NYSDEC will take over the responsibility of managing the treatment system following three successful months of operation by the NYCDEP.

Additional Information: For additional information on human health and exposure issues, please visit the NYSDOH's website at: www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/about/exposure.htm
For additional information on the groundwater cleanup technology that will be used, visit the EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/tio/download/citizens/pump_and_treat.pdf