

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Community Update
514 Union Street, Brooklyn NY
March 10, 2023**



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

New York State is committed to ensuring the protection of public health and the environment. The State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is actively overseeing the cleanup of 514 Union Street in Brooklyn through the State's Brownfield Cleanup Program. DEC experts have safely overseen the cleanup of hundreds of former industrial sites since the program was established in 2003 and is using this experience, and the best available science, to address contamination found at 514 Union Street.

When contamination with the potential to impact public health is identified as part of a cleanup – as is the case at 514 Union Street – DEC works closely with partners at the State Department of Health (DOH) to ensure a BCP applicant and/or property owner develops and implements a plan that prevents exposure to contamination and ensures the public and the environment are protected. DEC will continue to keep the community informed on this site, and others in the area as these cleanup efforts continue to progress.

Currently at 514 Union Street, there is no risk of exposure to on-site subsurface contaminants and the cleanup actions will continue until state requirements that are protective of the environment are met.

Sign up to receive updates from DEC at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/65855.html>

514 Union Street Overview:

Before entering the state's Brownfield Cleanup Program in October 2021, the property owner (473 President LLC) of 514 Union Street conducted an indoor air investigation and discovered contamination on the site. The owner notified building tenants as required by the [Tenant Notification Law](#) and provided this data to DEC as part of their application to the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). Prior to the data given by the BCP applicant in 2021, DEC was not aware of indoor air contamination at the site.

DEC notified the community the BCP application was received and under review in June 2021, accepted the site into the program in October 2021, and worked closely with DOH to ensure the applicant responsibly implemented a plan to prevent potential exposure to contamination.

A soil vapor intrusion mitigation system was designed and approved to prevent contaminants, primarily trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PERC) caused by earlier uses at the site, from impacting air quality inside the building. Information about the mitigation system plans was emailed to the community in March 2022 and the system installation was completed in September 2022.

DEC and DOH confirmed the effectiveness of the system in eliminating risks to public health by analyzing indoor air samples. The analysis determined the system is successfully reducing levels of TCE and PERC to well below State Department of Health guidance. Based on these facts, there are currently no public health exposures to unacceptable levels of TCE and PERC in indoor air contamination at the site.

Additional information can be viewed in cleanup documents at:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C224318/>

The investigation and expedited cleanup of this site is ongoing and DEC remains committed to advancing data-driven, science-based solutions to address environmental contamination and protect the health of New Yorkers.

Levels of TCE, PERC, and other contamination that exist below the surface and exceed DEC's groundwater guidance are being addressed with comprehensive treatment actions underway.

Learn More:

DEC is committed to keeping the public informed throughout the cleanup process of individual BCP sites. To review additional documents, public records, and other materials on the 514 Union Street site, visit DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?ProgNo=C224318>

DEC Fact Sheets:

DEC issued three fact sheets to date:

[December 2022 – Interim Remedial Measure Proposed](#);

[March 2022 – Draft Investigation Work Plan](#); and

[March 2022 - Interim Remedial Measure Proposed](#).

Site Contacts:

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For Project-Related Health Questions: Angela Martin NYSDOH Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower Room 1787 Albany, NY 12237 (518) 473-4671 beei@health.ny.gov

Documents:

Site-related documents for 514 Union St. can be found at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C224318/>

Upcoming Public Meeting:

DEC and DOH will be holding a community availability session in April on this and other cleanup sites in the Gowanus area.