



May 2008

# Fact Sheet

East 14<sup>th</sup> Street Works and East 17<sup>th</sup> and East 19<sup>th</sup> Street Stations

In conjunction with



## Implementation of Supplemental Remedial Investigation at Stuyvesant Town

Dear Interested Citizen:

**This fact sheet is to inform you of the start of the supplemental remedial investigation for the former East 14<sup>th</sup> Street Works and East 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street Stations.**

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## Introduction

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), together with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is providing this update on planned investigation activities at the former East 17<sup>th</sup> and East 19<sup>th</sup> Street Stations and the section of the East 14<sup>th</sup> Street Works that are currently part of Stuyvesant Town. A supplemental Remedial Investigation will start May 5, 2008. Soil sampling will take place around the Avenue C Loop, sidewalks in the area of Avenue C and East 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Garage # 3.

## Project Status and Schedule

Initial work at the site included collection of historic data and a soil gas/indoor air monitoring survey in the basements of the buildings above the former gas holders. Con Edison then conducted a Site Characterization Study in 2004 and an Interim Remedial Investigation in 2006.

The Site Characterization Study (SCS) was conducted to look for contamination from the three former manufactured gas holder facilities. It found that manufactured gas plant (MGP) impacts were limited to soils at least 3 feet below the ground surface, with the vast majority of impacts much deeper. MGP impacts were also found in groundwater well beneath the site, though groundwater is not used for potable supply.

The 2006 Interim Remedial Investigation (RI) was then conducted to delineate the extent of contamination. The results of the RI confirmed the earlier results and determined that the extent of impacts, in general, were limited to within 100 feet of the former gas holder locations. A link to the Interim Remedial Investigation Report can be found on Con Edison's website at [www.coned.com/publicissues](http://www.coned.com/publicissues).

NYSDEC and NYSDOH reviewed these findings and recommended additional investigation take place. Soil sampling will take place around the Avenue C Loop, sidewalks in the area of Avenue C and East 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Garage # 3. The work is scheduled to start Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and will be completed by May 30, 2008. Once this work is complete, a final RI report will be submitted.

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### Documents related to this project are available at the following locations:

**Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's Office**, 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007; 212-669-8300, Hours: M-F 9am-5pm; **Epiphany Branch, New York Public Library**, 228 E. 23 St., New York, NY 10010; 212-679-2645, Hours: Mon/Wed 12-8, Tues/Thurs/Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5.

## Potential Exposure

A primary goal of these investigations is to evaluate the potential for exposure from historical operations. Potential human exposure pathways could include breathing, ingesting or touching the contaminants. Because the soil contamination was found well below the surface at the E. 14<sup>th</sup> and E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street sites, the public is not exposed through direct contact with the contaminants. Only minor MGP impacts were found at E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street and these were also at depth. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is also unlikely because New York City is served by a municipal water system. NYSDOH reviewed the data from the soil gas/indoor air monitoring survey that Con Edison conducted and concluded that there did not appear to be any impact to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil. Indoor air monitoring will continue as part of an overall Site Management Plan until a remedy is proposed and implemented.

During all site investigation activities, extensive efforts are made to prevent exposure to potential hazards, including the use of real-time air monitoring in accordance with the NYSDOH's Community Air Monitoring Plan.

## Site Background

The East 17<sup>th</sup> Street Station was located between East 17<sup>th</sup> and East 18<sup>th</sup> Streets (to the west of Avenue C). The East 17<sup>th</sup> Street Station started operating in the 1860s. Operations consisted solely of gas storage. Storage had ended by the time development of Stuyvesant Town began in 1947. Con Edison sold the site to the City of New York in 1943 prior to the development of Stuyvesant Town in 1947.

The East 19<sup>th</sup> Street Station was located between East 20<sup>th</sup> Street Loop and East 20<sup>th</sup> Street just north of where East 19<sup>th</sup> Street was formerly located, and approximately 200 feet east of where Avenue A was formerly located. The site was used exclusively for gas storage activities from the 1860s. Storage had ended by the time development of Stuyvesant Town began in 1947. The site was sold by Con Edison to Improvement Garage, Inc. in 1943 and acquired by the City of New York in 1944.

The East 14<sup>th</sup> Street Works was located between the north side of East 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the south side of East 16<sup>th</sup> Street between Avenue C and the historic location of the East River (now the west side of the FDR Drive). Starting some time after 1853, MGP operations were located on the north half of the site, between East 14<sup>th</sup> and East 15<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Stuyvesant Town portion of the East 14<sup>th</sup> Street Works consisted of gas purification and gas storage activities. All gas manufacturing processes occurred on the east side of Avenue C, off of the present-day footprint of Stuyvesant Town. Storage and gas purification activities ended by the time development of Stuyvesant Town began in 1947.

## What are Former Manufactured Gas Holders?

Manufactured gas holders were designed for the storage and distribution of manufactured gas and operated between the 1800s and mid-1900s, before the development of natural gas systems. Residual contamination from these facilities may include tar and oil. Tar is a dark, viscous fluid with a distinctive acrid odor. The substances of concern in tar can be divided into two categories: BTEX compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). BTEX compounds are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene, which are also present in most petroleum products, such as gasoline. PAHs are compounds that are also present in many petroleum products (such as fuel oil and asphalt).

## Public Involvement

Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH hosted a public meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 at JHS 104 to present the Interim Remedial Investigation Report and answer questions. Public understanding and involvement are an integral part of a successful investigation and remediation program. To provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding manufactured gas plants, Con Edison has created a series of resources including fact sheets, a toll-free hotline, and Internet content at [www.coned.com/publicissues](http://www.coned.com/publicissues). A link to the Interim Remedial Investigation Report can be found on the Con Edison website. Information can also be found at the NYSDEC website at [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html). In addition, a Citizen Participation Plan has been approved by NYSDEC that outlines the steps to be taken to provide for public participation in the remedial program for the site.