



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# FACT SHEET

## Brownfield Cleanup Program

450 Union Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231

August 2019

SITE No. C224219  
NYSDEC REGION 2

### **Where to Find Information:**

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

#### **Carroll Gardens Branch Library**

396 Clinton Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231  
Phone: 718-596-6972

Hours: Mon, Thu-Fri 10am-6pm; Tue-Wed  
10am-8pm; Sat 10:00am-5pm

#### **Brooklyn Community Board 6**

250 Baltic Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 643-3027

Hours: Mon. to Fri 9:00 AM to 5 PM

#### **NYSDEC, Region 2 Office**

One Hunters Point Plaza  
47-40 21st Street  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
Call in advance: (718) 482-4900

### **Who to Contact:**

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

#### **Project-Related Questions**

Nigel Crawford P.E., Project Manager  
NYSDEC, Region 2 Office  
47-40 21st Street  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
(718) 482-7778  
[nigel.crawford@dec.ny.gov](mailto:nigel.crawford@dec.ny.gov)

#### **Project-Related Health Questions**

Angela Martin  
NYSDOH  
Empire State Plaza  
Corning Tower Room 1787  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 402-7860  
[beei@health.state.ny.us](mailto:beei@health.state.ny.us)

For more information about New York's  
Brownfield Cleanup Program, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html)

## **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), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the 450 Union Street site ("site") located at 450 Union Street in Brooklyn, NY. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the locations identified to the left under "Where to Find Information." 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.

**How to Comment:** NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 45 days, from **August 16** through **September 30, 2019**. The proposed plan is available for public review at the locations identified at left under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

**Draft Remedial Work Plan:** The proposed Restricted-Residential Use remedy was developed by 450 Union LLC ("applicant") after performing a detailed investigation of the site under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). The proposed remedy consists of:

- Installation of a new steel bulkhead along the portion of the Gowanus Canal bordering the site to serve as a subsurface containment/cut-off wall for residual contaminants.
- Excavating and disposing of excess soil and fill generated during construction of the new bulkhead.
- Sampling and analysis of soil collected from the base and (where available) sidewalls of bulkhead excavations, to document the quality of the remaining soil and fill.
- Backfilling excavated areas to the original grade using imported certified-clean fill or crushed native stone.
- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities;
- Construction and maintenance of a site cover system to prevent human and environmental exposure to contaminated soil/fill remaining under the site;
- Implementation of a coal tar recovery system and bulkhead monitoring program;

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- Implementation of a Site Management Plan (SMP) for long term maintenance of the remedial systems; and
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to ensure proper use of the site.

**Next Steps:** NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the cleanup plan as necessary, and issue a final Decision Document. NYSDOH must concur with the proposed remedy. After approval, the proposed remedy becomes the selected remedy. The applicant 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.

**Site Description:** The site is about 28,500 square feet (0.65 acres) and is bounded by Union Street to the north; the Gowanus Canal to the east; car and bus parking to the south; and Bond Street to the west. The site is improved with a one-story building (the "Green Building") encompassing an area of about 9,880 square feet, and two storage sheds. The exterior portion of the property contains an enclosed area for social events and storage areas. An existing bulkhead separates the property from the Gowanus Canal.

The site is used as a private event space, art gallery, and seasonal outdoor restaurant. Based on previous investigations, historic uses of the site have included: coal and wood storage, a granite works, an electroplating facility, a garage, a fuel company, and a foundry.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, C224219) at

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

**Summary of the Investigation:** The primary contaminants of concern at the site are petroleum-related volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, pesticides, and localized polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which are present site-wide in the historic fill. An area containing hazardous levels of lead in soil was identified near the center of the site and was removed under and interim remedial measure remedy. Coal tar containing VOCs and SVOCs was also found in along eastern perimeter of the site and west of the bulkhead wall.

**Brownfield Cleanup Program:** New York's BCP encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may 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 NYSDEC 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>

*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:

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](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.

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Site Location Map

