

**CON EDISON'S EAST 115th STREET
MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT INVESTIGATION**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
NOVEMBER 2007**

Con Edison, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will be attending the Parent Teacher Association Meeting on November 13, 2007 to present and answer questions on the former East 115th Street Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) investigation. Below are "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding the MGP investigation.

What is a Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP)?

Manufactured Gas Plants (MGP) were operated between the 1800s and mid-1900s, before the development of natural gas systems, to convert coal into gas for heating, lighting and cooking. An MGP operated at E. 115th Street, currently the site of 280 Pleasant Avenue, from 1895 to 1936. The plant was dismantled in 1941 and a public high school was erected on the property. In 2002, Con Edison entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to investigate and remediate, if necessary, MGP and manufactured gas holder sites in its service territory.

What were the results of the environmental investigation?

Investigation activities at the site were conducted by Con Edison in June 2002, August 2003 and August 2004 and involved the collection of soil, groundwater, and indoor air and soil gas samples within the school property. Sediment samples from the Harlem River adjacent to the site were collected as part of the investigation in January 2005. The investigation results indicate that soil and groundwater contamination is present beneath the site starting at depths of approximately 5 feet underneath the school basement (south wing) and 10 to 40 feet below the surface in the school courtyard.

Can students or staff be exposed to MGP-related contaminants?

No. Exposure can happen by breathing, eating or touching contaminants. Because the soil contamination was found well below the surface, the public is not exposed through direct contact. As stated below, there are no indoor air impacts from MGP residuals. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is also not likely because New York City is served by a municipal water system.

What were the results of the indoor air and soil gas testing?

Con Edison conducted an indoor air and soil gas sampling investigation to determine if subsurface MGP contamination was negatively impacting indoor air quality in the building. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has reviewed the data from the soil gas/indoor air monitoring survey that Con Edison conducted at the site and concluded that there does not appear to be any impact to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil. Con Edison will continue periodic indoor air monitoring until a remedy is proposed and implemented.

NYSDOH is working with the NYC Department of Education in regard to a few chemicals that were found in indoor air at levels above those we might typically expect. The presence of these chemicals in the school at elevated concentrations appears to be related to maintenance products. Although the presence of these chemicals does not pose an immediate public health concern, the levels should be reduced to within levels typically found in indoor air. State agency staff will

continue to work with NYC Department of Education staff to identify the source of these chemicals and properly manage them.

What kind of safety measures were used during the investigation process?

A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a community air monitoring plan (CAMP) were prepared by Con Edison and approved by NYSDEC and NYSDOH to assure the safe completion of all work. The work was done by trained, qualified contractors and was overseen by Con Edison staff. A representative of NYSDEC also monitored the work.

How can I hear more about the MGP investigation?

Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will be updating parents and teachers at the following meetings:

- Voluntary Staff Meeting – Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 3:15PM**
- School Leadership Team Meeting – Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 4:15PM**
- PTA Meeting - Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 6:00PM**

To provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding manufactured gas plants, Con Edison has created a series of informational resources including fact sheets, a toll-free hotline (877-602-6633), and Internet content at www.coned.com/publicissues.

What type of community outreach has taken place?

During the investigation phase (2003-2004) Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH worked with the NYC Department of Education and the school administration to keep the administration, teachers and parents informed of the various stages of the investigation. Public notices announcing dates of work and fact sheets were issued at each phase of the investigation. A public meeting was held at the school on March 30, 2004 to present the results of the investigation.

What happens next?

Based on the investigation results, a draft Remedial Alternatives Selection Report evaluating several alternatives to address the historical MGP contamination has been prepared. Presently, Con Edison is developing a work plan and schedule for conducting a pilot study for the remedial alternatives under consideration. The pilot study will enable Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH to determine what the most feasible remedial alternatives are given the current use of the site as a school. When the pilot study is completed, the Remedial Alternatives Selection Report will be finalized and available for public review and comment. The final step would be a comprehensive Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) presenting the proposed remedial alternative. Upon approval of the final RAWP by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH, the plan will be implemented.

Questions can be addressed to:

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