

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

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
APRIL 2008**

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 April 16, 2008 to update the school community 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 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.

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

Indoor air and/or soil gas testing has been conducted in 2002, 2004, 2007 and 2008. The most recent round of sampling took place in February 2008; 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 all of the data from the soil gas/indoor air monitoring surveys 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.

Are students or staff being exposed to MGP-related contaminants?

No. Exposure can happen through breathing, eating or touching contaminated media (i.e. air, soil and groundwater). Because the soil contamination was found well below the surface, the public is not exposed through direct contact. As stated below, there does not appear to be any impact to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is also not likely because New York City is served by a municipal water system.

What happens next?

Based on the investigation results, a draft Remedial Action Selection Report (RASR) evaluating several remedial alternatives to address the historical MGP contamination is being prepared. There will be a public meeting in the fall for the school community to review and comment on the RASR. Following the public review and approval by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH, the final remedy will be implemented.

How can I hear more about the MGP investigation?

Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will be updating the school community at the following meeting:

April 16, 2008 6:30PM PTA Meeting

What type of community outreach has taken place?

During this school year (2007-2008) Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH have attended five meetings to brief parents and staff on the MGP investigation.

Previously, during the investigation phase (2003-2004) Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH worked with the NYC Department of Education to keep the administration, teachers and parents informed. 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.

Questions can be addressed to:

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