



In conjunction with



# Fact Sheet

April 2009

## Farrington Street Gas Works

### Dear Interested Citizen:

**This fact sheet is to inform you of the future site characterization activities planned for the former Farrington Street Gas Works Site.**

**If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:**

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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 fact sheet on the upcoming investigation activities planned for the former Farrington Street Gas Works Site in Flushing, New York (see Figure 1). A portion of this property was once occupied by a historic manufactured gas plant (MGP).

## Project Status and Schedule

Con Edison has entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) with the NYSDEC to investigate, and if necessary, remediate potential impacts at former MGP sites. One of these MGP sites, the former Farrington Street Gas Works, was located at 31-06 to 31-24 and 31-37 to 31-53 Farrington Street, Queens, New York, and is divided into three parcels for description purposes (see Figure 2). Parcel 1 is currently occupied by a Pathmark grocery, pharmacy and various stores. Parcel 2 is currently owned by Con Edison and is utilized for equipment storage, trailer storage, a material lay down area, and a vehicle storage yard/lot. Parcel 3 is also currently owned by Con Edison and is occupied by a Con Edison Truck Flush Facility.

A Preliminary Site Assessment and Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) were conducted on Parcel 3 between 2001 and 2003. The IRM included the removal of impacted soil, the former gasholder, several former subgrade structures and piping, and two former underground storage tanks. Eight groundwater monitoring wells were installed and are sampled on a bi-annual basis. Previous investigation efforts at Parcels 1 and 2 have included the collection of historic data. This historic data indicate remnants from the MGP operations may be present at Parcels 1 and 2. In order to confirm whether MGP residuals are present, and if those materials are impacting subsurface soil or groundwater, Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH are planning to conduct investigation at these parcels.

Between April and May 2009, Con Edison will conduct a Site Characterization Study at the Site. Field activities will include the collection of soil and groundwater samples. The majority of the work will be conducted on Con Edison's property with limited work occurring on the sidewalks around Parcel 1 (see Figure 2). During the site characterization study activities, extensive efforts will be made to protect the community from potential hazards, including the use of real-time air monitoring in

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

**Queens Library**, 47-17 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355, 718-661-1200, Hours: Mon/Wed 10am-8pm, Tues 1pm-8pm, Thurs/Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5:30pm, Sun 12-5pm. **NYSDEC**, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, 518-402-9662 and **NYSDEC Region 2**, 1 Hunter's Point Plaza, 47-40 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Long Island City, NY 11101, 718-482-7287

accordance with the NYSDOH's Community Air Monitoring Plan.

## Potential Exposure

A primary goal of the Site Characterization Study is to evaluate whether contaminants from these historic operations are present and whether they pose an actual or potential threat to public health or the environment. If remnants from MGP operations are present, additional sampling may be needed to determine their nature and extent and the need for remediation. Because MGP remnants are typically found many feet beneath the surface, the public is typically not exposed through direct contact. Exposure to impacted groundwater through ingestion is also not expected because the area is served by a municipal water system.

If remedial planning is necessary based on the site investigation, the scope and basis for a remedial plan will be developed in cooperation with the NYSDEC and NYSDOH and presented to the public for review and comment.

## Site Background

The former Farrington Street Gas Works Site consists of approximately 6.17 acres and is bordered to the north by 31<sup>st</sup> Road (formerly Bayside Avenue), to the east by Farrington and Linden Streets, and to the south by 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (formerly Myrtle Avenue). The western boundary of the Site is approximately 200 feet east of Downing Street. The Site was owned and/or operated as an MGP between 1887 and the late 1940s. After the MGP was retired, Parcel 3 was used for storage of gas that was produced at other Con Edison plants or purchased from other utilities.

## What are former Manufactured Gas Plants?

Manufactured gas plants were operated between the 1800s and mid-1900s, before the development of natural gas systems, to convert coal and oil into gas for heating, lighting and cooking.

## Public Involvement

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 informational resources including fact sheets, a toll-free hotline, and internet content at [www.coned.com/mgp](http://www.coned.com/mgp). Information can also be found at the NYSDEC website at [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html). In addition, a Citizen Participation Plan has been approved by NYS DEC that outlines the steps to be taken to provide for public participation in the remedial program. Document repositories for site related documents have also



Figure 1:  
Site Location

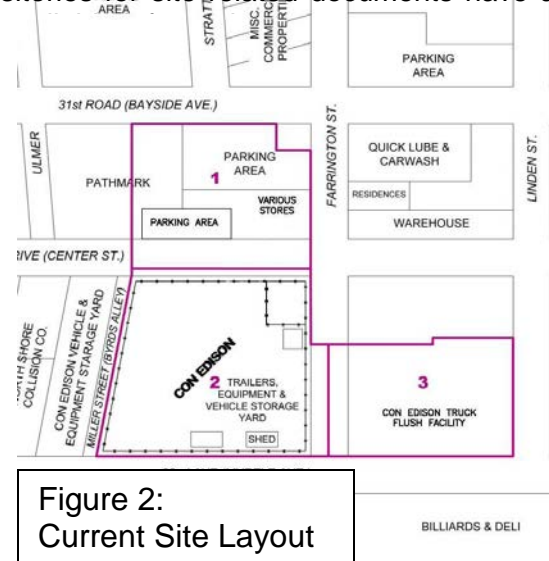


Figure 2:  
Current Site Layout