



September 2007

# Fact Sheet

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

In conjunction with



Results of the Interim Remedial Investigation

Public Meeting – October 3, 2007 at 7:00pm, JHS 104, 330 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St.

Dear Interested Citizen:

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

**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 update on the investigation activities performed 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. Activities at the site included a study of indoor air/soil gas, a site characterization study and interim remedial investigation study to investigate soil and groundwater.

## Project Status and Schedule

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

The Site Characterization Study (SCS) was conducted from January 2004 to April 2004 to investigate the site for the presence of contamination due to prior operation of the three manufactured gas holder facilities. The site characterization activities included: surface soil sampling, subsurface soil sampling, test pit excavation, and groundwater sampling. The results of the investigation found that there were no MGP impacts in the surface soil. The MGP impacts in subsurface soil were at least 3 feet below the ground surface, with the vast majority of impacts being much deeper. MGP impacts were also found in the groundwater at the site well beneath the surface.

Since MGP impacts were found during the SCS, an interim remedial investigation (RI) was conducted to delineate the extent of impacts. The Interim RI was conducted from January 2006 through May 2006. The results of the RI confirmed the results of the SCS and in general determined the extent of impacts, which were limited and in general were 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 have reviewed these findings and recommend additional investigations. NYSDEC has requested that some additional testing be performed around the recent water valve replacement project areas since some potential MGP impacts were found. Once this is complete, a final RI report will be submitted.

**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 was to evaluate the potential for exposure from these historical operations. Potential human exposure pathways include breathing, ingesting or touching the contaminants. Because the soil contamination was found 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. The NYSDOH has reviewed the data from the soil gas/indoor air monitoring survey that Con Edison conducted at the site and has concluded that there does not appear to be any impact to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil or any significant or imminent threats to human health. Indoor air monitoring will continue as part of an overall Site Management Plan until a remedy is proposed and implemented.

During the ongoing site investigation activities, extensive efforts were 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> Street and East 18<sup>th</sup> Street (to the west of Avenue C). The East 17<sup>th</sup> Street Station started operating between 1860 and 1867, and was retired sometime between 1920 and 1943. Operations at the site consisted solely of gas storage. Con Edison sold the site to the City of New York in 1943 prior to the development of the Stuyvesant Town housing project in 1947-48.

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, approximately 200 feet east of where Avenue A formerly transversed the site. The site was used exclusively for gas storage activities from approximately 1863 and 1868, and was retired sometime between 1920 and 1943. 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.

## 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. Residuals from these stations may include tar and oil, which in certain types of storage holders were used to form an airtight seal between the holders' foundations and upper tank shells. 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 include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene, which are present in most petroleum products, such as gasoline. PAHs are compounds that are present in many petroleum products (such as fuel oil and asphalt).

## Public Involvement

Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm at JHS 104, located at 330 E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, 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 informational 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 State DEC that outlines the steps to be taken to provide for public participation in the remedial program for the site.