

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BROOKLYN-QUEENS AQUIFER FEASIBILITY STUDY

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING: April 7, 2005

MINUTES

The 29th meeting of the Brooklyn-Queens Aquifer (BQA) Feasibility Study Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, April 7, 2005 at the Hillside Manor Comprehensive Care Center. (See Attachment A for Attendance List.)

Helen Neuhaus, Helen Neuhaus & Associates (HNA), opened the meeting by asking everyone to observe a moment of silence for CAC member Dr. Canute Bernard, who passed away in March. Linda Hazel then lead the group in a brief prayer. After thanking the group for its reverence, Ms. Neuhaus welcomed Anders Brunelle, URS Corporation, noting that he will supervise day-to-day activities for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) soil remediation work at the West Side Corporation (WSC) site.

Ms. Neuhaus then asked for comments on the Minutes of the March 3rd CAC meeting. Debora Hunte remarked that the Minutes omitted her request to compare results from the upcoming Soil Vapor Intrusion Study with results from a similar study conducted several years ago. After agreeing to revise the Minutes to include this item, Ms. Neuhaus asked the CAC for approval of the Minutes, pending correction. The Minutes were adopted unanimously. She then facilitated a discussion of follow-up items from the March 3rd meeting:

- Ms. Neuhaus reported that the list of sampling sites for Phase 1 of the Soil Vapor Intrusion Study was expanded to include Station 24 and the Sayres Avenue triangle. Since it was unclear whether the new list also included the previously-tested residential sites along 106th Road, Mr. Brunelle agreed to confirm that these sites are on the list.
- As requested, information regarding the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program was included in the March 3rd Minutes. Ms. Neuhaus noted that the formation of a CAC subcommittee to address Station 6 art issues will be discussed as a separate agenda item.
- Ms. Neuhaus announced that the WSC site Community Protection Plan (CPP) received CAC concurrence at the special March 17th CAC meeting. (Copies of the final CPP were provided at the April 7th meeting; additional copies are available upon request.) A more detailed update will be discussed as a separate agenda item.
- Regarding investigation of MTBE leakage in the vicinity of Station 6, Don Cohen, Malcolm Pirnie, reported that due to the resignation of the DEC representative who was handling the case, Dave Chiusano, DEC, has taken over responsibilities for this project. Mr. Chiusano recently received the project files and will forward the preliminary site assessment of the Atlas gas station to Mr. Cohen shortly. New information is expected to be available for discussion at the May CAC meeting.

- The next two WSC progress meetings will be held on April 13th and April 27th. Following a discussion among CAC members, it was decided that Manny Caughman will attend the April 13th meeting and Peter Richards will attend the April 27th meeting.

Project Update

West Side Corporation (WSC) Site Clean-Up

Referencing DEC's promise that no intrusive work will begin at the WSC site until the CPP and Worker Health and Safety Plan (HASP) are approved and community notification flyers distributed, Ms. Neuhaus announced that all three activities have been completed. Safety issues regarding Atlantic Express Bus Company employees were deleted from the HASP and included in a separate document, which was shared with the bus company employees. Ms. Neuhaus noted that a copy of this document will be available at the next CAC meeting. She also reported that the community notification flyers and contact information magnets were distributed by hand to 600 residents and businesses earlier this week. Copies were also sent to the offices of New York State Senator Malcolm Smith, New York State Assemblyman William Scarborough, New York City Councilman Leroy Comrie and Community Board #12. (See Attachment B for a copy of the flyer.)

Remarking that recent activity has primarily consisted of preparatory work, Mr. Brunelle noted that a subsurface depressurization system is being set up in the basement of the Atlantic Express Bus Company building. The system, which uses negative pressure to remove indoor perchloroethylene (PCE) vapors, may be hooked up to electricity as early as next week. Additionally, a gate has been installed in the fence near the trailers to provide access to the work areas.

More intensive work is scheduled to begin next week. Buses currently parked on site will be moved, project signs will be installed and construction areas will be clearly demarcated for the safety of bus company employees. The project team will decommission several wells near the area where the Electrical Resistance Heating (ERH) system is being installed. This may involve capping, filling in, grouting, and/or dismantling the wells. Surveying to determine grades will be conducted in preparation for installation of trenches to carry condensate water from the ERH system to the sewer. The permit for this sewer connection is currently being reviewed by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Mr. Brunelle also mentioned that approximately six soil borings may be drilled next week. Ms. Neuhaus reminded the CAC that these borings are for the monitoring wells recommended by Scientific Review Panel (SRP) member Dr. Alan Rabideau, State University of New York at Buffalo. Mr. Cohen elaborated by explaining that definition of the clay layer beneath the aquifer needed further investigation to fill in data gaps resulting from wide spaces between existing wells. Dr. Rabideau suggested installing additional monitoring wells to provide this supplemental data. Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that the new monitoring wells will be located on site. Locations for additional soil borings will be determined in the field.

In response to concerns expressed by Ms. Hazel, Bill Yulinsky, DEP, emphasized that the wells to be decommissioned at WSC are not production wells, but smaller monitoring wells. The project team confirmed that contaminated groundwater will not burst through the surface during well decommissioning.

Ms. Hunte inquired whether any new monitoring wells will be installed in the area of the recently built residential sites along 106th Road. Mr. Cohen noted that recovery wells will be installed where groundwater contamination is highest, which is southwest of the site, in the vicinity of Station 24. He added that one recovery well has already been installed at the southwest corner of Station 24 and that a second will be installed on the property.

Recap of Special March 17th CAC Meeting

Providing a brief recap of the special March 17th CAC meeting and the events leading up to it, Ms. Neuhaus remarked that the version of the CPP distributed at the March 3rd CAC meeting was significantly revised prior to the March 17th meeting. This was largely the result of numerous comments from the SRP, which culminated in a “flurry of emails,” as well as a lengthy conference call with Dr. Len Lion, Cornell University and Dr. Jack Caravanos, Hunter College. Principal changes included the following:

- Discussion of the CAC’s role in disseminating information to the community and receiving regular project updates via bi-weekly progress meetings and monthly CAC meetings
- Information on training of security personnel
- Additional technical information on vapor monitoring, including explanation of telemetry sensors and ongoing monitoring of the ERH system
- Description of protocols related to site incidents, emergency response mechanisms, and ERH system shutdown
- Addition of emergency and non-emergency contact information
- Inclusion of a resident comment/complaint form for non-emergency issues

Additional changes to the CPP proposed during the March 17th meeting included the following:

- Expansion of the community notification area, to include the Sayres Avenue triangle
- Clarification of the method by which soils will be securely covered during transport from the site
- Description of the odor of PCE

Ms. Neuhaus noted that all suggested changes were accepted by the SRP and incorporated into the final version of the CPP.

In response to a follow-up question from Mr. Richards concerning the odor of PCE, Ms. Neuhaus cited Section 6.0 of the CPP, which describes PCE as having “a sharp, sweet odor that is often noticed on freshly dry cleaned clothes.” Mr. Brunelle commented that although the CPP provides a general description of odor, it is not a reliable measure of PCE levels. This is due to the variation among people’s perception of odor and the olfactory levels at which they detect PCE (which ranges from 2-71 ppm). Ms. Hazel added that most people experience “olfactory fatigue,” where continuous exposure to PCE decreases the ability to detect its odor. In a final comment, Ms. Neuhaus reminded the CAC that Clayton is required to take action to maintain PCE levels at less than 5 ppm above background levels at all times.

In response to an inquiry from Earl Roberts, Mr. Cohen remarked that worst-case scenarios and contingency plans are detailed in the CPP. He noted that possible contributors of elevated PCE vapor levels may include a construction-related event or malfunction in the remediation system. However, a major vapor incident is highly unlikely, as continuous vapor monitoring will be

performed during construction, and telemetry sensors will monitor system performance around the clock during remediation.

Soil Vapor Intrusion Study

Mr. Brunelle reported that he and Irving Hicks performed an initial assessment of the proposed sampling sites (24 residences, Station 24 and Public School #116) for Phase 1 of the Soil Vapor Intrusion Study. Sites where the Geoprobe unit would not be able to properly access the sampling location were removed from the list of sampling sites and replaced with an adjacent site. Mr. Hicks was able to identify the residents of some sampling sites; Mr. Brunelle will consult tax documents to identify owners of the remaining sites. Once names are incorporated into the letters, Mr. Brunelle and Mr. Hicks will begin visiting homes to deliver letters explaining Phase 1 sampling and answer residents' questions. Following up on a request made by Ms. Hazel during the March 22nd WSC progress meeting, Ms. Neuhaus indicated that the residents' letters regarding Phase 1 sampling will include photos of the Geoprobe unit. She added that copies of the letter and Geoprobe photos are available at the sign-in desk. (See Attachment C for sample of letter and Geoprobe photos.)

Issues raised during the ensuing discussion included the following:

- In response to Ms. Hunte's aforementioned request for comparison of results from the previous and upcoming Soil Vapor Intrusion studies, the project team noted that a decision to do so could only be made by DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH). The project team added that although the earlier study may not be appropriate in serving as a baseline for comparison due to changing conditions and technology, a comparison of the two data sets may be useful.
- Mr. Cohen asked whether the site-specific Soil Vapor Intrusion Study work plan has been revised since the last CAC meeting and whether the final version will be available at the project repository. Following up, Mr. Hicks inquired whether the generic, state-wide work plan is available at the repository. Mr. Brunelle responded that he will consult with Mr. Chiusano on these issues.
- Following up on the Vapor Intrusion Study discussion from the March 3rd meeting, several CAC members reiterated the importance of including information on mitigation measures in the site-specific work plan. They also emphasized the need for DOH to establish a threshold level for PCE prior to the start of Phase 1 sampling, as well as to identify other factors that might contribute to a determination to recommend residences for Phase 2 sampling.
- Mr. Hicks inquired whether the residents' letter distributed at tonight's meeting is a final version. Mr. Brunelle replied that he would consult with Mr. Chiusano to determine the status of the letter. Mr. Brunelle also promised to provide Mr. Hicks with an opportunity to review a final copy of the letter before delivery to residents.
- In response to a follow-up inquiry from Mr. Richards, Mr. Brunelle verified that the residents' letter would be revised to reflect the new Phase 1 sampling start date, when determined.
- In response to a question from Ms. Hazel, Mr. Brunelle agreed to ask Mr. Chiusano if the DOH Indoor Air Quality Questionnaire (for Phase 2 sampling) is a final version.

Station 6 and Station 24

Mr. Cohen reported that the project team attended the American Council of Engineering Companies awards dinner last Saturday to receive the Diamond Award for planning related to Station 6. The project team will be attending another awards ceremony next Thursday to receive the Grand Prize (a national award) from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE). The AAEE award celebrates the holistic approach of the BQA Study, specifically its expansion beyond Station 6 planning to include WSC soil and groundwater remediation and sewer improvements for the neighborhood. Mr. Cohen thanked the CAC for its hard work on the project, which he acknowledged as a major factor in the team's receipt of the awards.

Nicole Brown, Malcolm Pirnie, noted that she continues to work on project specifications for Station 24, which will be sent to DEP and DEC for review within the next two weeks.

New Business

- Mr. Caughman recommended Fred Simmons, Residential People for Improvement, for CAC membership. Ms. Neuhaus asked Mr. Simmons to introduce himself to the group, explain his credentials and reasons for wanting to join the CAC. Commenting that he already knew many CAC members, Mr. Simmons noted that he has worked with Senator Malcolm Smith for 14 years, initially on the election campaign that brought him into office. Mr. Simmons' background also includes working as parent organizer for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, helping to establish the Working Family Party, and serving as president of the parent association and member of the restructuring team at Intermediate School #8. As Director of Constituent Services for Senator Smith, Mr. Simmons has created an education committee, and is working with AirTrain and Verizon to generate employment opportunities in the community. However, he emphasized that he is applying for CAC membership as a community resident, not as a representative of Senator Smith. Specifically, Mr. Simmons noted that he lives approximately 200 feet from Station 6 and therefore could provide a valuable perspective to the BQA project.

A motion was proposed to nominate Mr. Simmons for membership. Eleven members voted in favor of the motion, with zero opposed and zero abstentions. Ms. Neuhaus then welcomed Mr. Simmons to the CAC.

- Ms. Neuhaus initiated a discussion on the formation of a CAC subcommittee to address art-related issues for Station 6. She mentioned several procedural and substantive issues that the subcommittee is likely to address, including appropriate artwork for the facility, preferred media, and selection of artists.

As an initial step, she asked CAC members to volunteer or propose nominees for the subcommittee. Ms. Hazel nominated Gertrude Gonesh, resident, reminding the CAC that it is looking for new people. The Honorable Leroy Comrie, New York City Council, recommended the art director of the Region 3 school district, as well as the director of the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning. Ms. Neuhaus cited the CAC Operational Guidelines, which state that only CAC members can serve on a subcommittee but remarked that the group may want to discuss this issue further at its next meeting. It was noted that Richard Hellenbrecht and Yvonne Reddick both have experience with selection of public art projects, specifically with the Percent for Art Program. In response to an inquiry from Tracey Bowes,

Ms. Neuhaus indicated that the Station 6 art discussions are likely to be time-consuming and require many subcommittee meetings. Deputy Commissioner Doug Greeley, DEP, suggested that the subcommittee have an odd number of members to avoid ties. After discussion among the CAC, it was decided that Ms. Bowes, Ms. Hazel, Mr. Hellenbrecht, Ms. Hunte, Ms. Reddick, Mr. Richards and Mr. Simmons would serve on the subcommittee.

- An announcement was made regarding local artist William West's new art exhibit entitled, "Issues Unresolved." The exhibit will run from April 26th to May 21st at Carver Federal Bank, 158-45 Archer Avenue, Jamaica.
- To celebrate Ms. Brown's April 23rd wedding to Rashard Williams, DEP, Ms. Neuhaus announced that refreshments would be served following the meeting.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 5, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Hillside Manor Comprehensive Care Center, 188-11 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica Estates.

Follow-Up List

1. Revise Minutes of March 3rd CAC meeting to reflect Debora Hunte's comments. Responsibility: HNA.
2. Distribute copies of March 17th CAC meeting Minutes to CAC and SRP members who were not present at the April 7th CAC meeting. Responsibility: HNA.
3. Provide copy of Atlantic Express Bus Company document regarding safety issues during WSC clean-up at next CAC meeting. Responsibility: URS, HNA.
4. Deliver final copies of WSC CPP and HASP to WSC repository (at Queens Borough Public Library). Responsibility: URS.
5. Revise site-specific Soil Vapor Intrusion Study Work Plan to include detailed information (in plain language) on remediation measures to be taken in the event that vapor contamination is detected. Responsibility: DEC, URS.
6. Provide Irving Hicks with opportunity to review final version of residents' letter regarding Phase 1 of Soil Vapor Intrusion Study prior to delivery. Responsibility: Anders Brunelle, URS.
7. Determine whether DOH Indoor Air Quality Questionnaire (for Phase 2 sampling) that is attached to Soil Vapor Intrusion Study work plan is a final version. Responsibility: Anders Brunelle, URS.
8. Determine whether final Soil Vapor Intrusion Study work plan will be available at WSC repository. Responsibility: Anders Brunelle, URS.
9. Include previously-tested residential sites along 106th Road in list of sampling locations for Phase 1 of Soil Vapor Intrusion Study. Responsibility: DEC, URS, DOH.
10. Coordinate CAC representation at April 13th (Manny Caughman) and April 27th (Peter Richards) WSC progress meetings. Responsibility: HNA.

Brooklyn-Queens Aquifer Feasibility Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 7, 2005

Attendance List

CAC Members/Alternates

Tracey Bowes
Community Board #12

Linda Caleb Hazel
A Better Day Inc./St. Benedict The Moor/
St. Bonaventure

Manuel Caughman
Community Board #12/Office of
New York State Assemblyman
William Scarborough

Leroy Comrie
New York City Councilman

Kenneth Gill
Addisleigh Park Civic Association

Richard Hellenbrecht
Community Board #13

Irving Hicks
Brinkerhoff Action Association

Sarah Hicks
Brinkerhoff Action Association

Debora Hunte
Brinkerhoff Action Association

Yvonne Reddick
Community Board #12

Peter Richards
Community Board #13

Earl Roberts
113th Precinct Council

Fred Simmons
Residential People for Improvement

Guests

Michael Greene
Pollution Prevention Citizens Advisory
Committee

Bianca Harris
Residential People for Improvement

Andy Rousseau
Resident/New York City Department of
Environmental Protection

Florence Simmons
Residential People for Improvement

William West
Resident - Artist

Project Team

Nicole Brown
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Anders Brunelle
URS Corporation

Don Cohen
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Doug Greeley
New York City Department
of Environmental Protection

Helen Neuhaus
Helen Neuhaus & Associates Inc.

Andrea Wong
Helen Neuhaus & Associates Inc.

Anita Wright
Helen Neuhaus & Associates Inc.

Bill Yulinsky
New York City Department
of Environmental Protection

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OFENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Notification of Start of West Side Corporation Site Clean-Up

(Operable Unit No. 1, Site #2-41-026)



April 2005

Dear Community Member,

As you may have heard, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection are working together to clean up the soil and groundwater at the West Side Corporation (WSC) hazardous waste site (located at 107-10 180th Street). You are receiving this notice because of your property's proximity to the site.

The first phase of this project involves soil clean-up at the most contaminated areas of the site. While there will be initial construction activities (for about five months) related to installation of the remediation systems, the actual clean-up will take place underground. A minimal amount of soil generated during the construction period will be removed for off-site disposal at a permitted landfill. Soil transport trucks will use 180th Street and Liberty Avenue to access I-678 (the Van Wyck Expressway), a distance of approximately 2 miles.

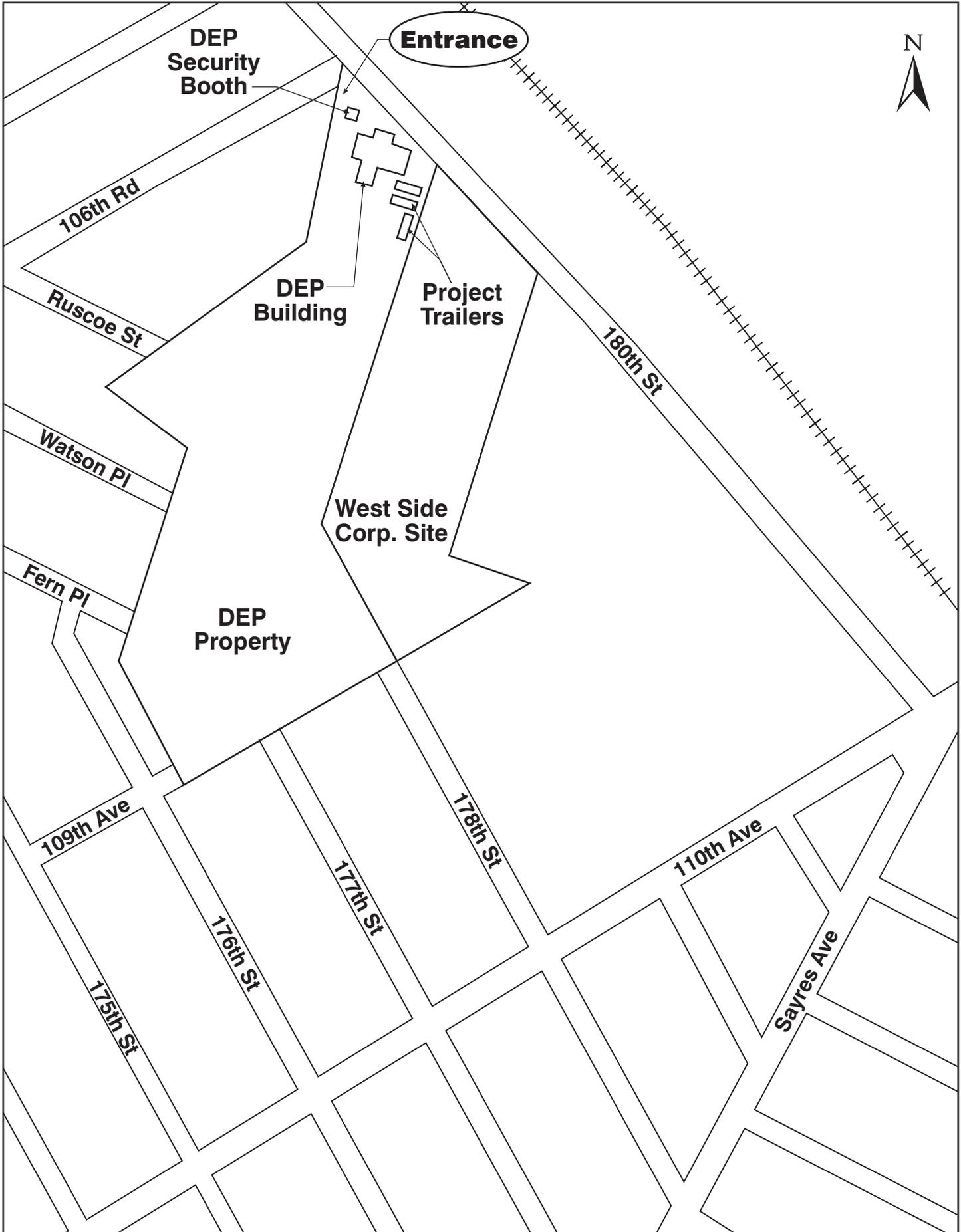
Several safety measures will be implemented to protect the community while this work is underway, including daily air monitoring at the work site and site perimeter, and around-the-clock security. While it is extremely unlikely that any type of incident will occur, contact the project trailers if you notice any problems at the site:

Weekdays, 7 AM - 4 PM: (718) 206-2423

All other times: (718) 206-0424

In the unlikely event of an incident at the site, the New York City Police Department and/or New York City Fire Department will be called in immediately to assess the situation and, if necessary, issue instructions to residents and businesses in the affected area. For example, community members may be advised (on a door-by-door basis) to stay inside and keep their doors and windows shut.

Copies of the WSC Site Community Protection Plan are available at the Queens Borough Public Library (89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica) and at the project trailers (see back page for map). The Plan is also posted on the project website at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/news/bqa.html>. If you have general project inquiries, please call (718) 206-2423.



DEP Security Booth

Entrance



106th Rd

Ruscoe St

DEP Building

Project Trailers

180th St

Watson Pl

West Side Corp. Site

DEP Property

Fern Pl

109th Ave

178th St

110th Ave

175th St

176th St

177th St

Sayres Ave

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation****Remedial Bureau E, 12th Floor**

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-7013

Phone: (518) 402-9814 · **FAX:** (518) 402-9819**Website:** www.dec.state.ny.usDenise M. Sheehan
Deputy
Commissioner

Address

RE: West Side Corporation Inactive Hazardous Waste Site
107-10 180th Street, (C) Jamaica, Site No. 241026

Dear Resident:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) are continuing to monitor environmental conditions in the vicinity of the West Side Corporation site (the site) located at 107-10 180th Street in Jamaica. As part of this effort, we are requesting your assistance by allowing NYSDEC representatives to take soil gas (vapor) samples on the front lawn of your property located at ?????? (see attached map). The purpose of the sampling program is to determine if site-related contaminants have migrated from the site. This sampling may also be used to assess whether there is a need to monitor indoor air quality in nearby homes.

Your property was chosen to be included within this sampling program based on its proximity to the site and the contaminated groundwater plume associated with the site. The sampling effort will be performed by URS Corporation, an environmental consultant hired by NYSDEC. Please be assured that sampling personnel and support staff will provide you with proper identification before entering your property. The work will involve obtaining one soil gas sample on your property. Soil gas sampling will be conducted approximately eight(8) to sixteen(16) feet below the ground. A vehicle-mounted Geoprobe® unit will be used to collect the samples by driving 1.25" diameter steel rods into the ground, attaching a clean, unused piece of 1/4" teflon lined plastic tubing, and applying a vacuum to withdraw soil gas for collection. Upon completion of sampling, the steel rods and plastic tubing will temporarily remain. It is anticipated that it will take one day to collect the sample on your property, which will then be taken to a certified laboratory for analysis. The sample will be analyzed for volatile organic compounds including tetrachloroethene (perc) the primary contaminant of concern in groundwater. You can expect to receive a copy of the analytical results and a letter from the state explaining the results within four to eight weeks. The state will evaluate the sampling results in accordance with the NYSDOH "Guidance for Evaluating Soil Vapor Intrusion" to determine the next step and will notify homeowners what the next step is determined to be such as further sampling or mitigation system installation. If the data collected indicates the need for a mitigation system installation, the state will install them at no cost to the homeowner.

Please note that NYSDEC will pay for the cost of the work to be conducted on your property. We are currently targeting the week of March 21, 2005 to initiate and conduct the sampling effort. We will make another effort to contact you in the near future with a more precise date. In the meantime, please contact me at (518) 402-9813 if you would like to discuss further details and for answers to any technical questions you may have. Health related questions should be directed to Ms. Stephanie Selmer, NYSDOH, at (518) 402-7870. If you do not wish to be included in this sampling program please notify us so another location can be selected. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David J. Chiusano
Project Manager
Remedial Section A, Remedial Bureau E
Division of Environmental Remediation

cc: G. Laccetti - NYSDOH, Troy
J. Sundquist - URS
A. Nagi - NYSDEC, Region 2
B. Putzig / T. Caffoe

Soil Vapor Intrusion Study: Equipment



Top and top right: Back and side views of the Geoprobe unit to be used for the West Side Corporation Site Soil Vapor Intrusion Study.

Bottom right: A different Geoprobe unit using direct push technology for vapor sampling in Glendale, Queens.

