

**If you have general questions or would like additional information regarding the site, please contact one of the following:**

Thomas Mongelli  
Remedial Project Manager  
(212) 637-4256  
[mongelli.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:mongelli.thomas@epa.gov)

Cecilia Echols  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
212-637-3678  
[echols.cecilia@epa.gov](mailto:echols.cecilia@epa.gov)

**Information Repository:**  
Washington Irving Library  
300 Irving Avenue  
Brooklyn, N.Y., 11237

**On the Internet:**  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/wolff-alport](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/wolff-alport)

**For information on other environmental concerns or the federal Superfund program, contact:**

George Zachos  
EPA Regional Public Liaison  
(732) 321-6621  
Toll Free: (888) 283-7626  
[Zachos.George@epa.gov](mailto:Zachos.George@epa.gov)

### Keeping Schools and Parents Informed

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to keep the community, schools and parents informed as the Agency addresses radiological contamination at the nearby Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site at 1125-1139 Irving Avenue and 1514 Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood, on the border of Brooklyn and Queens.

As part of EPA's continued outreach, on Sept. 26, 2018, the Agency visited P.S./I.S. 384 and updated representatives from the school, Community Education Council 32, the New York City Department of Education, and Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's office on the results of sampling conducted at the school between 2010 and 2017. Soil and air were sampled and radiation surveys were performed as part of EPA's assessment of contamination associated with the Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site.

### Immediate Action Taken to Mitigate Potential Risks

EPA assessed the school to ensure that any steps needed to immediately address risks from the Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site were quickly taken. EPA first collected radiation samples from the school in 2010. At that time, radon, a radioactive gas, was detected near a hole in the floor of an unoccupied area in the school's basement. The hole was sealed and follow up testing did not find radon at concentrations above EPA's action level. Basement air was sampled for radon again in 2012, 2015, and 2017 and all of the results were, again, well below EPA's action level for radon. The results of soil sampling and a gamma radiation survey at the school were all within the range of normal background levels.



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)

## Our Findings at the School

Based on EPA's sampling and surveys, the Agency determined that the school has not been impacted by contamination from the Superfund site and there is no threat to school children from radiation at the Wolff-Alport site. No additional testing is needed and children, parents, and school staff can be assured that they are in no immediate risk from radiological contamination in the school from the nearby Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site.

## Additional Information About the Site

EPA identified several buildings on the former Wolff-Alport property, as well as soil both on and off the former Wolff-Alport property and adjacent sewers, that are contaminated with radioactive material from past industrial activities. Because of earlier EPA response actions, and those of state and city agencies, there is no immediate threat to nearby residents, employees or customers of businesses along Irving and Cooper Avenues. In late 2012, the EPA took steps under its emergency response authorities to reduce on-site workers' and the public's potential exposure to the radiation.

The now-defunct Wolff-Alport Chemical Company operated from 1920 until 1954, processing imported monazite sand to extract rare earth metals. Monazite contains approximately six to eight percent thorium, which is radioactive. The company disposed of thorium waste in the sewer and on its property until 1947, when the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission ordered the company to stop those practices.

## Next Steps

No further actions are needed at this time to protect children and adults in the school. However, over the next several years, EPA will implement a permanent fix that will protect those who live and work in the former Wolff-Alport property area over the long term. The EPA's comprehensive cleanup addresses potential long-term risks through a combination of response actions, including permanent relocation of commercial and residential tenants located on the former Wolff-Alport property, demolishing contaminated buildings located on the former Wolff-Alport property, excavating contaminated soil both on and off the former Wolff-Alport property, and cleaning/replacing contaminated sewers. To read the cleanup plan or to remain updated, please visit: [www.epa.gov/superfund/wolff-alport](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/wolff-alport)



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)