

Field Work Update

Newtown Creek Superfund Site

New York, NY

Community Update

Summer 2018

If you would like more information on the Newtown Creek Superfund site or this field work, please call:

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EBULLITION STUDY TO BEGIN ON NEWTOWN CREEK

As part of the overall effort to clean up Newtown Creek and under the oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a contractor will be conducting a field study in Newtown Creek, (East Branch, both Queens and Brooklyn shorelines of the Turning Basin, Lower English Kills, Upper English Kills, and Dutch Kills), on the movement of gases from sediment into the water column through a process called ebullition. Ebullition is a natural process that occurs as decomposing matter in the sediment generates gases. The gases bubble up to the water surface and may result in the movement of contamination. The purpose of the ebullition study is to measure the role of this process in moving contamination within the creek. Data collected during this study is vital for the overall understanding of the creek that will lead to the selection of an appropriate remedy.

Aeration systems, operated by the City of New York and regulated by the State of New York, typically operate during the summer months in two of the six areas where the study is planned, English Kills and East Branch. The aeration systems are used to increase the amount of dissolved oxygen available for fish and other organisms in the creek. In order to obtain reliable and accurate data from the study, the aeration system in the English Kills tributary will be shut down from approximately **July 6th to July 19th, 2018**. **The aeration system in the East Branch will not be turned on for the summer until approximately July 19th.**

Best efforts have been taken to minimize the impacts to fish and other organisms, however this temporary suspension of aeration may unavoidably result in conditions that cause fish to die, particularly those in the English Kills and East Branch tributaries of Newtown Creek.

Another round of ebullition sampling is planned for Fall 2018. It is expected that the aeration system will not be running at the time of the second sampling round.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Newtown Creek Superfund site is a 3.8-mile long tidal water body, located in New York City and is a tributary of the East River. Throughout the 1800s, numerous industrial activities occurred along the creek's banks, including oil refining, petrochemical production and fertilizer and glue manufacturing. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 2010 based on the presence of a variety of contaminants in the creek.

Newtown Creek is currently undergoing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS process is a multi-year, multi-phase study and will characterize environmental conditions at Newtown Creek and connecting tributaries to determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess risk to human health and the environment, and evaluate potential cleanup alternatives.

For additional information on Newtown Creek Superfund Site: www.epa.gov/superfund/newtown-creek