



EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN FOR POTENTIAL INDOOR AIR CONTAMINATION AT THE MEEKER AVENUE PLUME SUPERFUND SITE BROOKLYN, NEW YORK



APRIL 2024

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is asking the public for input on its proposed plan to address the potential vapors that may be entering into residential and commercial buildings at the Meeker Avenue Plume Superfund site, which is located on approximately 191 acres across several city blocks in the East Williamsburg and Greenpoint neighborhoods of Brooklyn, New York. The soil, soil gas and groundwater at the site are contaminated with chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs), including tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE).

EPA's Proposed Cleanup Plan

EPA's proposed cleanup plan for addressing indoor air concerns due to site-related vapors that may be entering structures (vapor intrusion) involves installing mitigation systems called sub-slab depressurization systems where needed. Under the proposed plan, where EPA's evaluations determine it is necessary, EPA would install sub-slab depressurization systems and may also take preventative measures such as the sealing of cracks and gaps in the lowest level of a structure, where necessary. Sub-slab depressurization involves connecting an electric fan to a small suction pit dug into the slab that will vent vapors outdoors above the building's roofline.

EPA developed this plan in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health.

Chlorinated volatile organic compounds

(CVOCs) including tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (DCE), and vinyl chloride, are man-made chemicals that evaporate at room temperature and are associated with a higher risk of reproductive effects and cancer after prolonged exposure.

Learn more about [PCE](#), [TCE](#), [DCE](#), and [vinyl chloride](#) from the New York State Department of Health.



Get Involved!

Public Meeting Date:

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Location:

St. Stanislaus Kostka Lower Church
607 Humboldt St., Brooklyn, NY

More information:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/meeker-avenue-plume>

Contact: Anna Drabek, 212-637-3586,
drabek.anna@epa.gov



Public Comment Period

The proposed cleanup plan is available for public comment from **April 5 to May 10, 2024**. The public is encouraged to review the plan, attend the public meeting, and comment on the cleanup alternatives.

To provide comments to EPA:

Read the document online at
www.epa.gov/superfund/meeker-avenue-plume

Send your comments to **Rupika Ketu**,
ketu.rupika@epa.gov, or 290 Broadway, 18th
Floor, New York, NY 10007

EPA must receive your comments by
May 10, 2024.

Past Cleanup Activities

EPA added the Meeker Avenue site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in March 2022. NYSDEC sampled over 160 properties since 2007, before EPA's involvement. EPA is assessing the level of contamination and its impacts to people's health.

As of December 2023, EPA sampled underneath and inside of 18 residential structures, 11 public housing buildings, and one public school. EPA has results that show no further action is needed at 15 of the residential properties, the 11 public housing buildings, and the public school. Three of the residential properties will require additional monitoring. In addition, in February and March 2024, EPA sampled 18 properties and will be evaluating the results, and will be conducting additional sampling in the future. Because prior sampling from NYSDEC did detect CVOC vapors inside several dozen properties, the state installed mitigation systems to handle the vapors.



Where to Find More Information

EPA keeps site project information and reference materials for the public to read online and at local information repositories.

Copies of cleanup documents for the Meeker Avenue Plume Superfund site will be available at:

EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center

290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, New York

Greenpoint Library

107 Norman Avenue
Brooklyn, NY

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS

ASSESSMENT



Discovery of Contamination



Preliminary Assessment



Site Inspection



National Priorities List (NPL) Site Listing

CHARACTERIZATION



Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study & Proposed Plan

SELECTION OF REMEDY



Record of Decision

CLEANUP



Remedial Design



Remedial Action

POST-CONSTRUCTION



Operation and Maintenance



NPL Deletion

Five-Year Reviews

Community involvement and planning for a site's redevelopment are integral to the entire process

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