

For more information, contact:

Mark Schmidt
Remedial Project Manager
212-637-3886
schmidt.mark@epa.gov

Natalie Loney
Community Involvement
212-637-3639
loney.natalie@epa.gov

EPA Newtown Creek website:
www.epa.gov/superfund/newtown-creek

Proposed Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a Proposed Plan that evaluates impacts of the current and expected future volume of combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges to the Newtown Creek Superfund site Study Area in New York City. Outside of the Superfund process, the City of New York is under order by the State of New York to implement a CSO Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) for Newtown Creek. The LTCP, which was approved by the state in June 2018, includes a number of components to reduce future CSO discharges to the Creek, including construction of a storage tunnel. The LTCP is anticipated to reduce the volume of CSO discharges to Newtown Creek by approximately 61 percent, and to achieve waterbody-specific water quality standards under the Clean Water Act. EPA determined that the water pollution volume controls prescribed by the LTCP that

the city will implement under state oversight, in accordance with requirements of the Clean Water Act, are sufficient to meet the needs of an eventual Superfund cleanup for the Study Area of the Newtown Creek Superfund site.

Site Background

Newtown Creek is a tidal arm of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary, and forms a boundary between Brooklyn and Queens. The creek is a tributary of the East River and includes five branches along its 3.8-mile reach. Historically, Newtown Creek drained the uplands of western Long Island and flowed through wetlands and marshes. However, due to heavy industrial development and governmental activities dating from the 1800's, formerly wet areas have been filled, Newtown Creek has been channelized, and its banks have been stabilized with bulkheads and rip rap. This historic development resulted in changes in the nature of Newtown Creek from natural to one that is governed largely by engineered and institutional systems.

In the mid-1800s, the area next to the creek was one of the busiest industrial areas in New York City. The banks of Newtown Creek were lined with industrial facilities including more than 50 oil refineries, as well as petrochemical plants, fertilizer and glue factories, sawmills, and lumber and coal yards. Newtown Creek was crowded with commercial vessels, including large boats bringing in raw materials and fuel and taking out oil, chemicals, and metals. In addition to the industrial pollution that resulted from all of this activity, the city began dumping raw sewage directly into the water in 1856. Currently, factories, warehouses, and municipal facilities including the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, still operate along the creek. Various contaminated sites along the creek have contributed to the contamination in the creek. On September 29, 2010, Newtown Creek was added to the National Priorities List (NPL), making it a Superfund site.

Public Meeting

A 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Plan, begins on November 21, 2019 and ends on December 23, 2019.

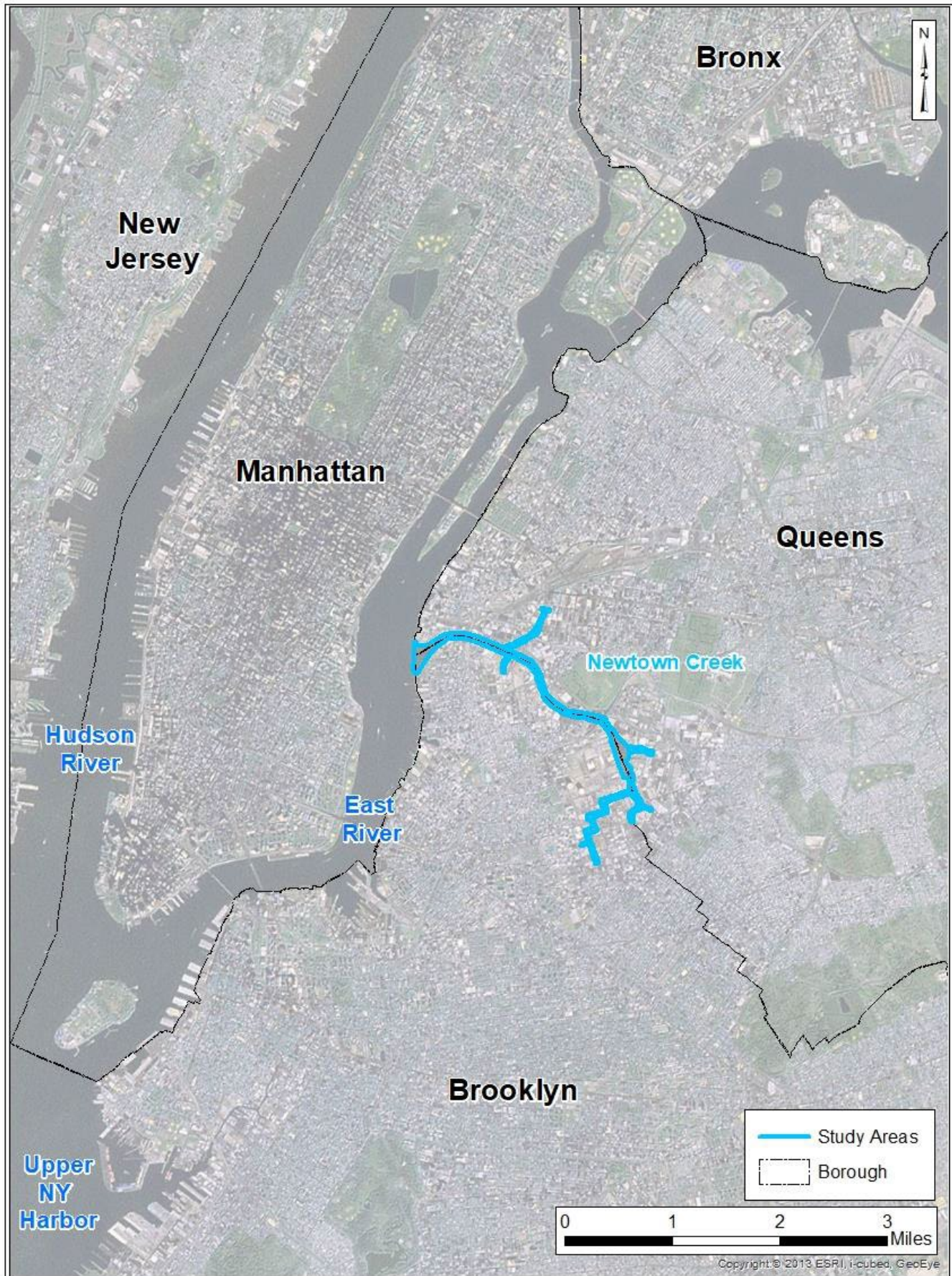
Written comments on the Proposed Plan, postmarked no later than close of business December 23, 2019, may be e-mailed to schmidt.mark@epa.gov or mailed to Mark Schmidt, US EPA, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866.

EPA will hold two public meetings to present EPA's proposed plan for reducing the volume of CSO discharges to the creek, and to receive public comments on the plan. The public meetings will be held on **December 9** at 6:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Community Services, 43-31 39th Street in Queens and on **December 11** at 6:30 p.m. at P.S. 110, 124 Monitor Street in Brooklyn.



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.

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