

Community Update**July 2020**

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have questions, contact:

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For more information about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/region02/waste/wolff

SITE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expects to begin sampling as part of its investigation to delineate where soil needs to be excavated from the immediate site and nearby areas. As part of its work under a 2019 EPA Unilateral Administrative Order, New York City submitted a workplan in April 2020 to determine the extent of soil contamination beneath nearby streets and sidewalks and sediments in the sewer system that ends approximately at the Halsey Street/Wyckoff Avenue intersection. The workplan was reviewed by EPA and the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health. Comments were provided to New York City in June 2020. The sewer system is also separately under consideration for replacement as part of an unrelated project being undertaken by New York City. New York City's soil sampling under the workplan, as well as EPA's own sampling to determine the soil excavation boundaries, is expected to be performed this summer.

EPA finalized its plans for the Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site in a Record of Decision issued in September 2017. The plan called for relocating on-property commercial and residential tenants, demolishing the on-property buildings, cleaning and removing the radiologically impacted sewer system, excavating radiologically-contaminated soil, and disposing of the excavated soil, sewer system sediments, and building debris off-site. The maps below showcase the approximate limits of the contaminated areas. In September 2018, EPA finalized the building demolition design component of the cleanup plan. In September 2019, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to New York City, a potentially responsible party for the City-owned streets, sidewalks, and sewer system, to complete design activities related to the contaminated soil underlying the sidewalks and roadways and the impacted sewer lines. While no one is exposed to these contaminated soils and sediments, they may present a hazard to workers who may disturb the soil without taking proper precautions.

September 2017:
EPA issued Record
of Decision

September 2018:
EPA finalized
building demolition
design

September 2019:
EPA issued Unilateral
Administrative Order
to New York City

June 2020:
EPA and NYSDEC
reviewed New York
City's workplan

BACKGROUND

The now-defunct Wolff-Alport Chemical Company operated from 1920 until 1954, processing imported monazite sand to extract rare earth metals. Monazite contains approximately 6% to 8% 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 the risky environmental health practices. The former facility property is located on 1125-1139 Irving Avenue and 1514 Cooper Avenue in Ridgewood, on the border of Brooklyn and Queens. The property includes six parcels of land with five buildings that house several small businesses and warehouse space. EPA installed lead, steel, and concrete shielding in some on-site buildings and adjacent sidewalks as part of the removal actions between October 2012 and April 2014. The site was added to the National Priorities List in May 2014.

EPA appreciates your patience and cooperation during the field activities associated with the remedial design.



LEGENDS

- 2015 RI BORINGS
- 2013 BVA BORINGS
- 2010 BERGER BORINGS
- RI MONITORING WELLS
- EXTENT OF PCB AND/OR PAH CONTAMINATION

- 2 FT DEPTH OF EXCAVATION
- 3 FT DEPTH OF EXCAVATION
- 4 FT DEPTH OF EXCAVATION
- 6 FT DEPTH OF EXCAVATION
- 8 FT DEPTH OF EXCAVATION
- 20 FT DEPTH OF EXCAVATION
- 30 FT DEPTH OF EXCAVATION

NOTES:

- BORING SYMBOLS SHOWN IN RED INDICATES RESULT EXCEEDS PRELIMINARY REMEDIATION GOALS AT THAT LOCATION.
- EXTENT OF EXCAVATION IS DELINEATED USING THE NEAREST CLEAN SAMPLE IN THE OUTWARD DIRECTION FROM THE WOLFF-ALPORT CHEMICAL COMPANY PROPERTY. IF SUCH A SAMPLE DOES NOT EXIST, THE EXTENT IS ESTIMATED AS 20 FEET AWAY FROM THE FURTHEST SAMPLE RESULT ABOVE PRELIMINARY REMEDIATION GOALS OR TO THE NEXT PHYSICAL BARRIER (E.G., BUILDING).

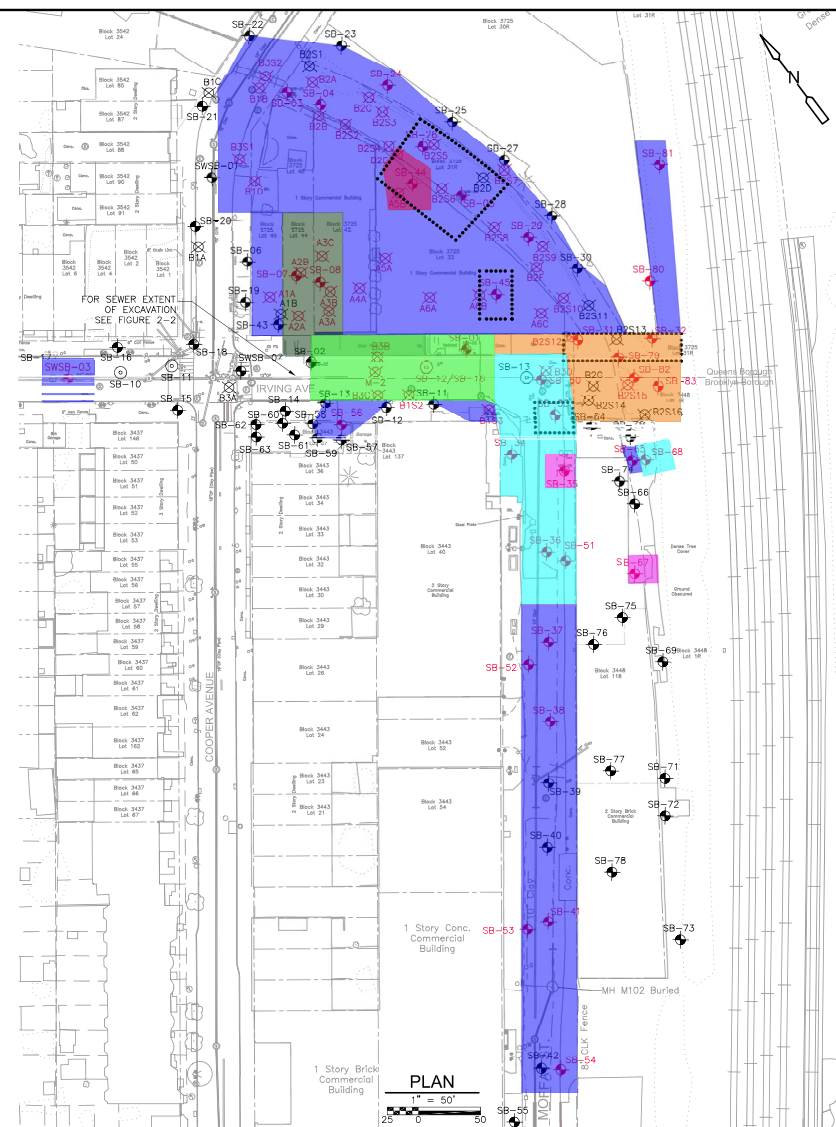


Figure 6
Alternative 4 Excavation Plan
Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Site
Ridgewood, Queens, New York