



MARCH 2023

Current and Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will sample public spaces in buildings at the Cooper Park Housing Complex as part of the larger investigation of the Meeker Avenue Plume Superfund site in Brooklyn, New York in March 2023. EPA completed similar sampling at P.S. 110 elementary school, located on Monitor Street in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn in February.

In coordination with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), EPA will sample the indoor air, outdoor (ambient air) and sub slab soil vapor (vapors beneath the buildings) to measure chemicals that may be entering buildings as vapors from soil and/or groundwater contamination. EPA will assess levels of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs), including tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (DCE), and vinyl chloride.

EPA's testing will focus on basement level and first floor spaces as these tend to be the location where vapors can enter a structure and accumulate. EPA will evaluate common areas, meeting spaces, office areas and recreation areas on the first floor. At this time, EPA will not be testing any residences or apartments in the Cooper Park Housing Complex as there are no living spaces below the second floor.

To help with the sampling effort, EPA may use a mobile laboratory on weekdays between 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The laboratory will need to be parked at multiple locations around the Cooper Park Houses.

EPA also plans to test about ten other residential properties potentially impacted by the site later this month. In addition, EPA continues to try to get permission to access more properties within the study area. In December 2022 and January 2023, EPA sent letters to more than 520 area residents requesting access.



About the Contaminants

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.

Sample Collection and Results

The sampling equipment that EPA will be using is very sensitive and can collect chemicals from sources other than those being investigated (i.e., the groundwater and soil vapor). To avoid any interference with the sample collection, please **do not** touch the sample canisters. When near the canisters, please do not:

- Use cleaning products
- Use paints, varnishes, or solvents (nor participate in indoor hobbies using the products)
- Open windows, doors, or vents for extended periods of time
- Use air fresheners or odor eliminators
- Apply pesticides

Results will take about 2 to 3 months from the time the sampling is completed. EPA will submit the sampling results to NYCHA and ensure that the data is made available to the public. If additional testing or further action is required, EPA will notify NYCHA and the Cooper Park Housing tenants as soon as possible.

More information about vapor intrusion and sampling at the Meeker Avenue Plume Superfund site is available on the site's webpage: www.epa.gov/superfund/meeker-avenue-plume



Sample Canister

Site Background

EPA added the Meeker Avenue Plume site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List in March 2022. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has been investigating the area since 2007. EPA is assessing the level of contamination and any potential impacts to people's health. This sampling will help EPA understand the extent of contamination better and plan additional sampling and cleanup efforts.

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www.epa.gov/superfund/meeker-avenue-plume

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For information on general environmental concerns or the federal Superfund hazardous waste program, please contact: **George Zachos**, EPA Regional Public Liaison, at zachos.george@epa.gov or (732) 321-6621 or toll free at (888) 283-7626.