

Newtown Creek Federal Superfund Site

Public Health Assessment

Final

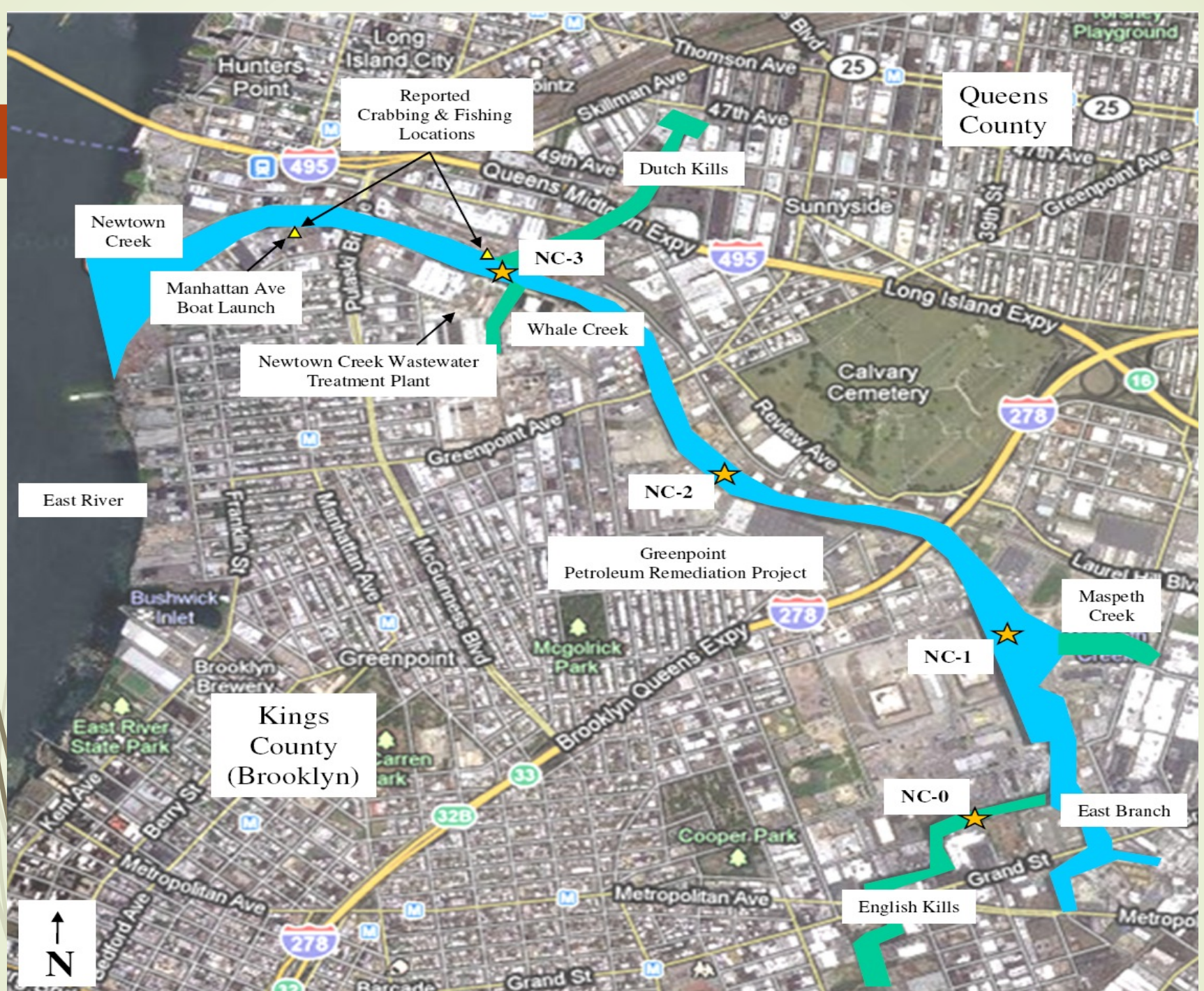
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Prepared by:

**New York State Department of
Health (DOH)**

Under a cooperative agreement with:

**Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry (ATSDR)**





Public Health Assessments

- **Written for a specific site – Newtown Creek**
 - Limited to public health implications of the site itself
 - PHAs are not Health Studies or Health Outcome Reviews
 - PHAs are not risk assessments
- **PHAs answer**
 - how can people contact site contaminants?
 - are people contacting site contaminants?
 - how could people be affected by the contaminants?



Public Health Assessments

- **Three steps** – Agency Review, Public Review, Final
 - **Environmental Data from EPA, DEC, NYC DEP**
 - **Review data**
 - **Public Health Implications**
 - **Recommendations**
 - **To environmental agencies**
 - **Community members**
 - **ATSDR/DOH**
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Data

- ▶ Where did we get the information?
 - ▶ USEPA
 - ▶ 2009 Expanded Site Investigation Report.
 - ▶ NYCDEP
 - ▶ Newtown Creek Monitoring Station data.
 - ▶ Bacteriological Data – Indicator Organisms
- ▶ What we didn't use.....
 - ▶ Inactive Hazardous Waste sites
 - ▶ Along the creek were not used.
 - ▶ We are limited to the definition of the site set by USEPA
 - ▶ Newtown Creek defined as water body and tributaries.
 - ▶ May not represent Creek-Wide conditions.




Exposure



- ▶ What are the Elements?
 - ▶ Contaminant Source.
 - ▶ Environmental Media & Transport Mechanism.
 - ▶ A Point of Exposure.
 - ▶ A Route of Exposure.
 - ▶ A Receptor Population.



What was evaluated?

- **Water**
 - **Sediment**
 - **Air – Community Wide**
 - **Fish**
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Water



- Chemical Contamination = Not Evaluated
 - Will be further evaluated based on remedial investigation.
- Biological Contamination
 - NYCDEP real-time collection of biologicals
 - Evaluated by DOH Bureau of Community Sanitation and Food Protection
 - Compared to DOH Bathing Beach Code
- Physical Hazards
 - Industrial boat traffic, Bulkheads




Sediment



- Collection Points
 - Newtown Creek = 58
 - Atlantic Basin (Background) = 6
- Contact with this media is unlikely



Air – Community Wide

- No data available at the time the PHA was being written.
 - Samples will be collected to determine the air quality surrounding the creek.
 - To be completed as part of the USEPA Remedial Investigation.
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Fish



- DOH Fishing Advisory
 - East River and its tributaries.
 - Newtown Creek is a tributary of the East River.
 - Specific Guidelines regarding consumption.
- Creek Specific Fish contaminant data
 - Will be generated from the RI.
- Please visit:
 - <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2784.pdf>
 - <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2796.pdf>



Conclusions



- ▶ Water:
 - ▶ Physical Hazards and Bacteriological hazards represent a concern.
 - ▶ Immersion activities should be minimized.
 - ▶ Swimming, Diving, Windsurfing, Falling out of a water craft.....
 - ▶ Bacteria Exposure
 - ▶ Precautions to be observed.
 - ▶ Washing off after contact with sediment will reduce prolonged exposure.




Sediment



- Minimal exposure expected.
 - Direct contact areas limited
- Physical Hazards, Chemical and Bacteriological hazards represent a concern.
- Precautions to be observed.
 - Washing off after contact with sediment will reduce exposure.















Air

- ▶ An evaluation of site related contaminants of concern will be completed as part of the Remedial Investigation.
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NYSDOH Specific Fish Advisory

East River includes tributaries

		Women Under 50 & Children Under 15	Women Over 50 & Men Over 15
	American eel	don't eat DEC regulations prohibit the harvest/possession of American eel for food.	
	Atlantic needlefish	don't eat	up to 1 meal/month
	Blue crabs	don't eat don't eat tomalley	up to 6 crabs/week don't eat tomalley
	Bluefish	don't eat	up to 1 meal/month
	Carp	don't eat	up to 1 meal/month
	Channel catfish	don't eat	don't eat
	Gizzard shad	don't eat	don't eat
	Goldfish	don't eat	up to 1 meal/month
	Rainbow smelt	don't eat	up to 1 meal/month
	Striped bass	don't eat	up to 1 meal/month
	White catfish	don't eat	don't eat
	White perch	don't eat	up to 1 meal/month
Other fish not listed		don't eat	up to 4 meals/month



Fish Continued



➤ Please visit:

➤ <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2784.pdf>

➤ <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2796.pdf>




PHA Conclusions:

- **Swimming could Harm People's Health**
 - **Incidental Ingestion** (Full immersion activity)
- **Recreational Boating is not expected to Harm People's Health**
 - **Use caution and wash afterward**
- **Eating Fish and Crabs could Harm People's Health**
 - **Follow Fish Advisory**




Recap

- Water
 - Exposure to this media could harm peoples health.
 - Bacteria Exposure
 - Physical Hazards (e.g. Commercial Boat Traffic, CSO's)
 - Chemical contribution = ?
- Sediment
 - Exposure to this media could harm peoples health. However Exposure to this media is unlikely
- Air – Community Wide
 - Will be evaluated as part of the USEPA Remedial Investigation.
- Fish
 - We recommend that you strictly adhere to the DOH fishing advisory.



What's Next?

- USEPA Remedial Investigation.
 - DOH continues to update public health evaluation as new data become available.
 - Health Consultations (Focused PHA)
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Contact us

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