



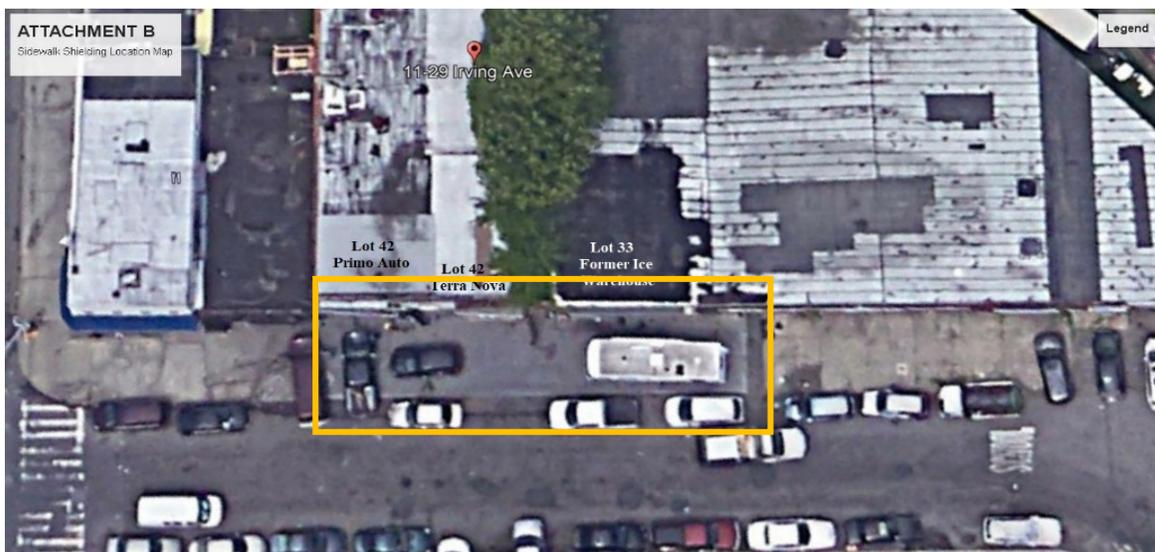
OCTOBER 2021

Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing repairs to the damaged steel shielding on the sidewalk along Irving Avenue at the Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site in Ridgewood, New York.

EPA will sand and repair rusted and damaged areas of the top steel layer of the shielding, apply the slip resistant epoxy material, or hard plastic, and install asphalt around the shielding area to prevent the risk of a slip and fall and limit radiation exposure. After the repairs, EPA will survey the area to ensure there is no radiation exposure. EPA plans to begin repairs on November 1, 2021 and end November 10, 2021.

In addition, but separate from the sidewalk repairs, EPA and New York City are working to relocate tenants, demolish buildings and remove soil at the site.



The yellow square shows the sidewalk shielding area that EPA is repairing

EPA will create a temporary work zone which will be inaccessible to the public to set up operations on the sidewalk and public right of ways. EPA will place traffic barriers around the sidewalk area, which will not interfere with vehicular traffic along Irving Avenue. Work will be performed Monday through Friday from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There may be some work on the weekend to accommodate tenants along Irving Avenue. The community can expect loud noise, vibration, and airstreams near the work zone during work hours.

Past Activities

EPA has surveyed the sidewalk area during different stages of the removal activities, including in December 2020. The purpose of the December 2020 survey was to provide a snapshot of the radiation levels before future repair. Once the shielding area is repaired, EPA will survey the area once again to confirm the sidewalk shielding continues to provide the intended radiological exposure reduction.

Site 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. 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 between October 2012 and April 2014. The site was added to the National Priorities List in May 2014.

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