



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

January 6, 2021

Michael J. Ryan, P.E., Director
Division of Environmental Remediation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York, 12233-7014

Dear Mr. Ryan:

This is in response to your December 7, 2020 letter regarding concerns about statements regarding the Citizens Gas Works (Public Place) Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site that were made by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group's (CAG's) December 1, 2020 meeting. These comments were made in response to the CAG's request for input from EPA on a Land Use Committee resolution that had been drafted for vote by the full CAG. The draft resolution sought EPA's technical perspective as to whether the remediation at the site would meet the current and future needs of the community under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC's) April 2007 Voluntary Cleanup Program Decision Document.

After watching the video of the meeting and following up with my project team, I can appreciate your concern. I regret that my team did not defer a response to the request for comment on the resolution until we had an opportunity to discuss it with your team. Such a discussion could have resulted in our being able to jointly inform the CAG of our expectation that cleanup efforts at the site performed by NYSDEC and the developer will protect public health and the environment. In the future, we will ensure that if there are formal requests about state remedies at sites that might have an effect on the Gowanus Canal remedy, we will bring it to the attention of and engage with the NYSDEC project team.

With so much work underway in the canal, the MGP sites, and the state Brownfields sites, improving our coordination efforts will be beneficial to both EPA and the State. We suggest a meeting this month to discuss how we might improve coordination moving forward and could also discuss specific points raised in your letter if you would find that to be helpful. Most importantly, during the meeting, we could discuss how EPA and NYSDEC can reassure the community of our joint expectation that the efforts performed by NYSDEC and the developer

will protect public health and the environment at the site.

Sincerely yours,

Pat Evangelista, Director
Superfund and Emergency Management Division