



## EPA has begun Shielding Phase at the Wolff Alport site in Ridgewood/Bushwick, New York September 2013

During the week of September 4, EPA began mobilizing and staging equipment at the Wolff Alport site. There is a site office trailer.

On September 8, 2013, EPA initiated the preparation for shielding operations which will prevent exposure to subsurface elevated gamma radiation at the site. Currently, this site encompasses several businesses.

The proposed order of work per business is: 1) Primo #1, Shielding; 2) Terra Nova, Shielding; 3) Primo #2, Shielding; and followed by 4) Irving Avenue, Sidewalk Shielding.

Estimated time at each location will be approximately five weeks and consist of: cleanout, floor preparation, framing for concrete, pouring of concrete and then finalization (returning all of the businesses property items).

This phase of the removal action is estimated to be completed by the second week of December 2013. Working hours are 7:00am until 6:30pm, Sunday thru Friday.

Planned EPA On-Scene Coordinators: Eric Daly (Sun. thru Wed.) and Carl Pellegrino – (Thurs. & Fri.)

### **Background:**

The EPA, and State and City of New York are working to reduce potential exposure to radiation caused by operations at the former Wolff Alport Chemical Company in Ridgewood, Queens. Wolff Alport, which processed and sold minerals containing thorium, ran its operations from the 1920's to 1954 at 1125-1139 Irving Avenue in Ridgewood. The area of concern consists of approximately six businesses and commercial properties near the intersection of Irving Avenue and Cooper Avenue where sands, containing naturally-occurring radioactive materials rich in thorium, were processed and disposed of.

New York State and New York City conducted various surveys and testing over the years that confirm the presence of residual radioactive contamination from the Wolff Alport facility. The EPA has confirmed the state and city's findings. The testing indicates that there is no immediate threat to nearby residents, employees or customers of businesses in the affected area along Irving and Cooper Avenues. Exposure, however, to this residual radioactive contamination may pose a health threat under certain long-term exposure scenarios. The EPA and the City and State of New York are all working together to reduce these potential long term exposures to radiation.

### **Contacts & Where to Get More Information**

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