



**NYC Department of Health, New York State Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
to Conduct Radiation Measurements in Ridgewood, New York  
July 2013**

**Current Activity:** The New York State Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conduct radiation measurements within a half-mile area surrounding the former site of the Wolff-Alport Chemical Company located at 1125-1139 Irving Avenue in Ridgewood, Queens. The area to be measured is roughly bounded by Forest Avenue on the northeast, Putnam Avenue on the northwest, Bushwick Avenue on the southwest and Evergreens-Trinity-Knollwood Park Cemetery on the east and southeast. The purpose of these radiation measurements is to confirm and update some previous testing and to acquire new, background radiation readings on streets and sidewalks around the site.

The measurements will not interrupt businesses nor will there be impacts to private property. No digging or closure of streets or sidewalks is anticipated. Approximately 8 to 10 field technicians will be conducting these tests. The technicians will wear badges and/or clothing with logos identifying displaying one of the agencies participating in the project.

**The testing is scheduled to begin on Monday July 29<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**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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EPA Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/wolff/>