June 2026

New York City School Construction Authority – Soil Remediation FAQ

Harbor Middle School future site – 46 Verona Street, Brooklyn NY 11231

The New York City School Construction Authority (SCA) is looking forward to continuing construction activities on the site of the future Harbor Middle School. As we perform the activities described below, the health and safety of everyone in the community is our top priority.

The SCA only operates under permits granted by the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) and any regulatory agencies pertaining to the specific work, including the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Environmental activities are performed only by highly-qualified contractors and are overseen by third party monitors, environmental consultants and inspectors, and the SCA's Industrial and Environmental Hygiene Department to ensure all work is performed safely and in compliance with applicable standards.

We put together this basic FAQ on upcoming activities that we hope will be helpful. In addition, we have posted a NYS Department Environmental Conservation Fact Sheet on the SCA's website.

What construction activities have been completed?

As of the end of May 2026:

- The contractor is nearing completion of demolition of the building that was on the site. The final portions involve removing foundation footings and debris clean up and removal.

What is the next phase?

The next step is to remediate soil on the site under the New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP)

What is the approximate timeline for these activities?

The remediation work is expected to start in June 2026 and is expected to take 6-8 weeks, through August 2026.

Questions about the soil remediation/ Brownfield Cleanup:

Some aspects of the BCP have already been performed over the past few years: Between 2024 and this year SCA removed two underground storage tanks and excavated three petroleum hot spots in accordance with the NYSDEC-approved Remedial Action Work Plan. Once those areas were excavated, contaminated soil was properly transported to an off-site disposal facility, and clean soil was used to backfill the excavations.

What is upcoming? Current remediation is focusing on a section of the site under and around the former warehouse building that was demolished, that was tested in earlier stages and found to contain contaminants above regulatory comparison criteria. The next phase of work involved is called “in-situ stabilization/solidification (ISS)” of soils.

How does it work? Existing on-site soils will be mixed with Portland cement and other materials using an excavator to immobilize contaminated soil. It works by mixing binding agents directly into the ground, turning the soil-contaminant matrix into a monolithic block with low permeability to entomb the impacted material permanently.

Are there notes and data on the contamination in the soil? Yes, the BCP document repository is located here: https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C224302/

What environmental monitoring systems are in place for safety and air quality? A New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)-compliant Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) is being implemented during all ground-intrusive activities. SCA’s environmental consultant performs full-time oversight of the remedial work, implements CAMP, and generates daily reports submitted to the NYSDOH and NYSDEC. The contractor is implementing dust suppression and odor control measures in accordance with the CAMP and as directed by SCA and SCA's environmental consultant. This includes using foam that suppresses odors and spraying down soil to prevent wind-blown dust from leaving the Site.

What is the run-off threat of site contaminants and chemical products with rain to adjacent property and immediately adjacent courtyard? The project is being implemented under a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). A SWPPP is a comprehensive, site-specific document required by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to manage runoff, control soil erosion, and prevent construction-related pollutants from entering the city's waterways. Additionally, the project remediation work will be completed at an elevation that is several feet lower than the adjacent residential patio.

What perimeter and depth needs to be excavated for soil remediation? The ISS remediation area is approximately 100 x 110 x 20 feet deep. The posted BCP remedial action

fact sheet summarizes all remedial work. The approved RAWP and Remedial Design Report (RDR) are provided in the BCP report repository link https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C224302/

After soil is remediated what are the next steps?

After soil is remediated, construction on the new school building can proceed. There will be an update on this milestone once SCA reaches that stage.

More information about the NYC School Construction Authority can be found on our website www.nycsca.org.

Summary of posted and linked documents in addition to this FAQ:

- ***NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfield Clean-Up Fact Sheet– will be on the SCA website and available through the NYS DEC link above***
- ***Brownfield Clean Up Document Repository - https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C224302***