



# GOWANUS CANAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

*your local voice for Superfund*

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***The following CAG resolution requests formal consideration by the indicated parties to conduct activities related to the Gowanus Canal Cleanup with regard to the concerns and interests of the Gowanus community.***

**TITLE: Support of EPA's Gowanus Canal Superfund Cleanup Team**

TO: Walter Mugdan, Acting Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 2  
John Prince, Deputy Director, USEPA Region 2  
Pat Evangelista, Director of Superfund & Emergency Mgmt Division, USEPA Region 2

**DATE:** January 26, 2021

**Resolved:**

The Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group (CAG) strongly supports Walter Mugdan and his Superfund Cleanup Team, Christos Tsiamis, Brian Carr and Natalie Loney for their excellent work in providing the best solution for the remediation of the Gowanus Canal and adjacent sources of contamination. In addition, the CAG appreciates the clarity that Mr. Tsiamis provided in our December 1<sup>st</sup> General CAG meeting where he gave an overview of the extent of the coal tar contamination at Public Place based on NYS DEC's own Remediation database and explained the differences between the 2007 Voluntary Cleanup Program and the Brownfield Cleanup currently being implemented. The CAG continues to be thankful to Mr. Tsiamis for sharing his extensive knowledge of the issues around the canal and the contamination of Public Place.

**Background:**

NYSDEC Site Remediation Database for Public Place states: "The site is underlain by a deep sand deposit, which has enabled the coal tar released from the former MGP to migrate both vertically and horizontally. Two other MGPs are also located nearby, and it is not always possible to tell where the tar plume from one site ends and the next begins." "The site is heavily contaminated with MGP residuals, including coal tar and petroleum products. The principal contaminant is coal tar, which is present as a non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) throughout the portion of the site that borders the canal. Contaminants are impacting the soil, groundwater and soil gas. Contamination is present to depths of at least 120 feet below grade, and has been observed migrating off-site at depth. The nearest environmental receptor is the Gowanus Canal, where significant discharges of coal tar can be seen during low tide periods. Active coal tar seeps are found in two locations along the canal; under extreme low tide conditions, these seeps can cover a several hundred-foot reach of the canal with slicks and sheens. The canal is used as a recreational resource by kayakers and canoers. Based on the heavy contamination at the site, NYSDEC has determined that the site poses a significant threat to human health and the environment."

cc: Christos Tsiamis, Senior Project Manager, USEPA Region 2  
Brian Carr, Legal Council, USEPA Region 2  
Natalie Loney, Gowanus Canal CIC, USEPA Region 2  
Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYSDEC  
Vincent Sapienza, Commissioner, NYCDEP  
Marisa Lago, Director, NYCDCP  
Congresswomen Nydia Velazquez  
Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

**Please direct all responses and inquiries to both [gowanuscag@gmail.com](mailto:gowanuscag@gmail.com) and [doug@forumfg.com](mailto:doug@forumfg.com)**