

Newtown Creek Superfund Site Fact Sheet

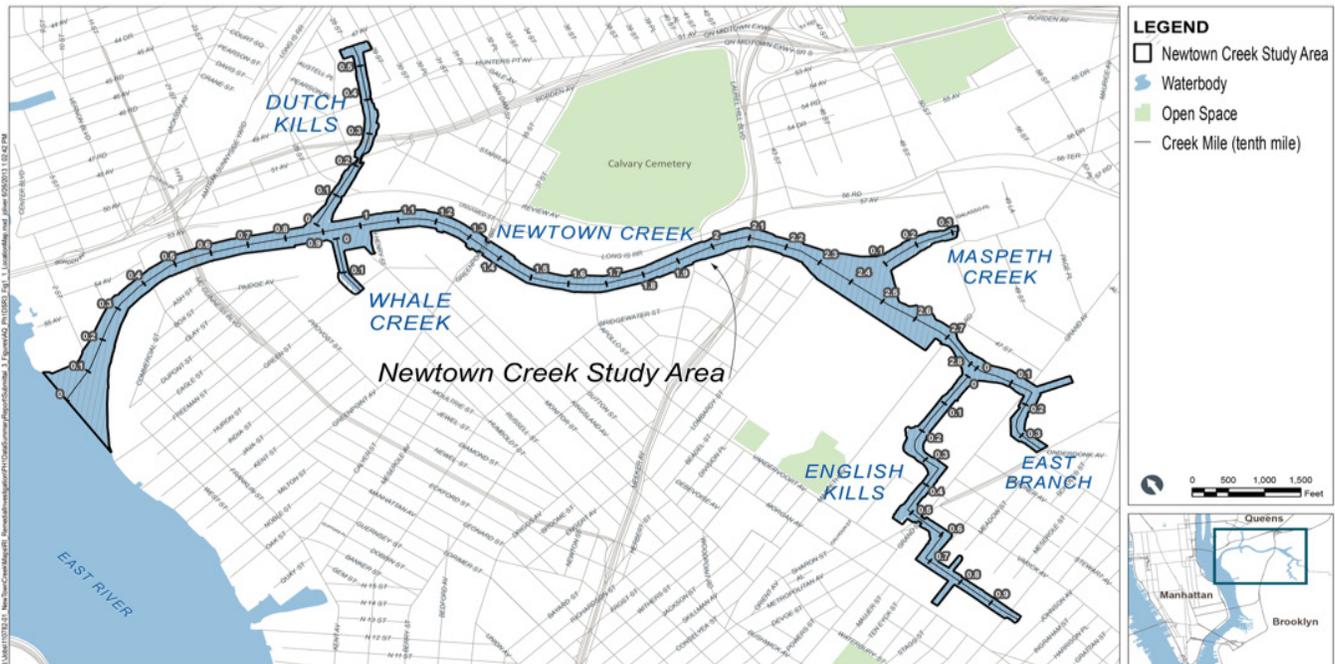


Figure 1. Newtown Creek Superfund Site

BACKGROUND

In the mid-1800s, the area next to Newtown Creek was one of the busiest industrial areas in New York City. During World War II, the creek was one of the busiest ports in the nation. Today, factories, warehouses, petroleum bulk storage facilities, municipal and utility infrastructure, and other industrial and commercial facilities still operate along the creek. As a result of its industrial history, including countless spills and disposal of raw sewage, Newtown Creek is one of the nation's most polluted waterways. Potential contaminants of concern (COPCs) in creek sediments include metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In total, the Newtown Creek Superfund site is a 3.8-mile reach that includes Newtown Creek and its tributaries: Dutch Kills, Maspeth Creek, Whale Creek, East Branch and English Kills (Figure 1).

THE SUPERFUND PROCESS AT NEWTOWN CREEK

The Superfund process consists of nine stages (Figure 2). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began a preliminary assessment and site inspection (PA/SI) in 2009 and listed Newtown Creek on the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites in 2010. In 2011, EPA issued an administrative order on consent (Consent Order) to six potentially responsible parties (PRPs), including Phelps Dodge Refining Corporation, Texaco, Inc., BP Products North America Inc., the Brooklyn Union Gas Company d/b/a National Grid NY, ExxonMobil Oil Corporation, together forming the Newtown Creek Group (NCG), and the City of New York. *(continued on back)*

NEWTOWN CREEK SUPERFUND PROCESS AND TIMELINE

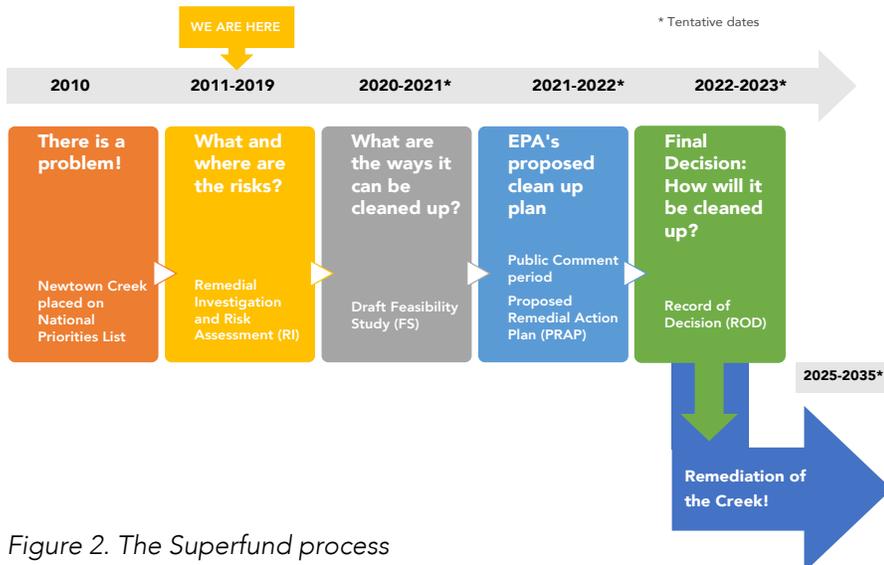


Figure 2. The Superfund process

remedial alternatives, additional investigation activities may be added to the RI.

After the RI/FS, EPA proposes a preferred remedy and presents this remedy in a document called the Proposed Plan. At this point a public comment period begins and the public is invited to submit comments on the preferred remedy. EPA then selects a remedy in a decision document called a Record of Decision (ROD). After the ROD, detailed cleanup plans are developed and put in place during the remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA) stage. Cleanup completion and monitoring follow, during the construction completion and post-construction completion stages. Once site remedies are fully protective of public health and the environment and are ready for reuse, EPA deletes sites from the NPL.

The Superfund process provides numerous opportunities for the public to participate in the cleanup process.

HOW TO LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED

The best way to learn more and get involved with the site's cleanup is through **the Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group (CAG)**. The CAG holds regular meetings that are open to the public and designed to serve as an ongoing forum for information-sharing, discussion, and (where possible) consensus-building regarding site decision-making.

CAG members represent a diverse cross-section of key stakeholder interests, including affected property owners, concerned residents, local governments, community groups, environmental groups, public health experts, the business community, and others as appropriate. **Anyone may apply to join the CAG at any time.**

» **Learn more:** EPA's Newtown Creek site webpage: www.epa.gov/superfund/newtown-creek and the CAG's website: <https://newtowncreekcag.wordpress.com>

» **Ask a question about the site:** Contact EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Natalie Loney, at loney.natalie@epa.gov or (212) 637-3676

» **Stay informed about the site's progress:** <https://newtowncreekcag.wordpress.com/about-the-cag/>

» **Attend a CAG meeting and find past meeting materials:** <https://newtowncreekcag.wordpress.com>

» **Find resources for community involvement:** <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>