

Facts on Remediation

GREENPOINT BROOKLYN REMEDIATION PROJECT

Basic Concepts

The goal of environmental remediation is the removal of pollution or contaminants for the protection of human health and the environment.

Surface oil spills on black top, soil or water can often be cleaned up efficiently and quickly using absorbent materials and vacuums. However, underground accumulations of petroleum products are typically more difficult to reach and take much longer to recover. The composition of the land, geology and the depth of the plume underneath Greenpoint poses many challenges.

- **Petroleum product recovery** – ExxonMobil’s goal is the removal of petroleum products that sit on top of the underground water table below Greenpoint. Referred to as the “plume,” this layer of petroleum products includes both heavier fuel oils and lighter refined products such as gasoline.
- **Groundwater cleanup** – Concentrations of dissolved petroleum substances exist in the groundwater beneath the plume. The water treatment system now in use removes contaminants from the groundwater produced during the process of recovering product from the plume.
- **Layers of soil** – A great deal of variety exists in the makeup of the soil above the plume. Underneath a top layer of 5 to 15 feet of loosely packed urban fill material, the soil underneath Greenpoint ranges from tightly packed clay to much looser sands. This composition provides a natural barrier.
- **Product Recovery Optimization** – Different techniques and methodologies must be used to maximize the rate which petroleum products are recovered (Please see best available technology page).



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