



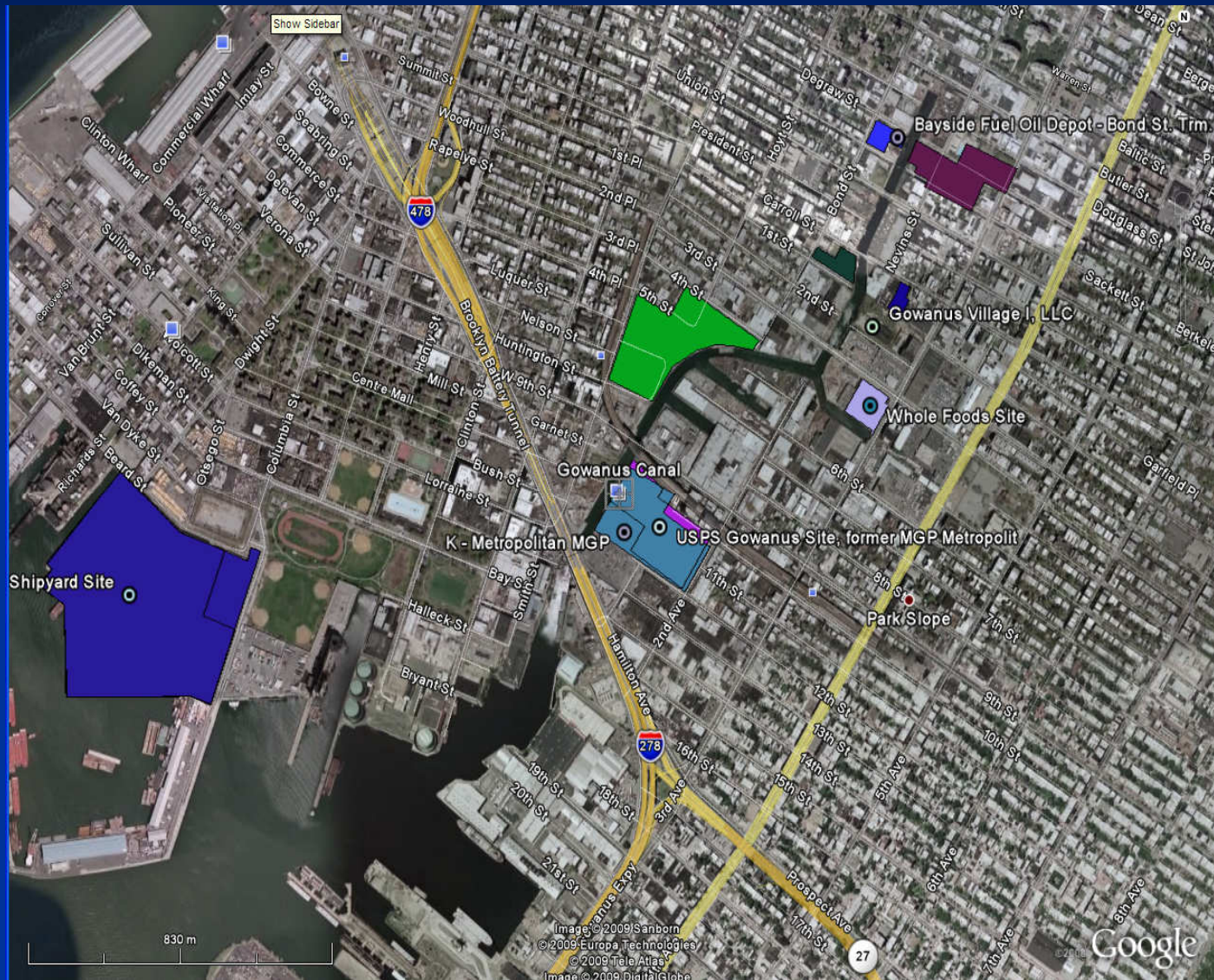
**U.S. Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Gowanus Canal

**Presentation on Proposal to National
Priorities List**

April 14, 2009

Gowanus Canal



Response Agencies

- EPA
 - Site Assessment
 - Removal
 - Remedial
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Acronyms

- NPL – National Priorities List
- HRS – Hazard Ranking System
- RI – Remedial Investigation
- FS – Feasibility Study

National Priorities List

- List of Nation's hazardous waste sites warranting further investigation
- 1,264 sites currently on NPL
- NPL listing triggers
 - Removal site evaluation
 - Health consultation
 - Remedial Investigation
 - Feasibility Study

Contaminants

- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
 - Up to 4.5% in canal sediments
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
 - Up to 43 parts per million in canal sediments
- Heavy Metals
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Extent of contamination traverses length of canal

Possible Sources

- Former Manufactured Gas Plants
- Coal Yards
- Cement Makers
- Tanneries
- Paint and ink factories
- Machine shops
- Oil refineries
- Sewer Overflow

Basis for Proposal to NPL

- Downstream areas of Canal used for fishing
- New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary
 - Designated Estuary of National Significance
 - Canal is part of core area
- Recreational uses
- Evaluation of these criteria for HRS score
 - Gowanus Canal score = 50
 - Highest possible score = 100
 - Minimum score for eligibility = 28.5

Work to date

- Sediment sampling by U.S. Corps of Engineers
 - April-May, 2003
 - September 2005
- Sediment Sampling by KeySpan (National Grid)
 - December 2005 – January 2006

60 Day Comment Period

- Regulations.gov
 - Keyword “gowanus” or
 - EPA-HQ-SFUND-2009-0063
- Dennis Munhall
 - 212 637-4343
 - munhall.dennis@epa.gov
- Information online at: epa.gov/superfund
 - Click on “National Priorities List”
 - Click on “Current NPL Updates”
- Comment Period Ends **June 6, 2009**