



The City of New York  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1**

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*Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose*



**VANESSA L. GIBSON**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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CHAIRPERSON

**ANTHONY R. JORDAN**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Basil Seggos, Commissioner  
State of New York  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

As the Community Board representing Mott Haven, Melrose and Port Morris, sections of the South Bronx we are writing to you concerning a significant environmental and health issue affecting our constituents and visitors in the Melrose community.

Hundreds of families and individuals who live, work, volunteer, worship, and do business in the area are affected by the PCE contamination from a former dry cleaner site at 753 Melrose Ave, Bronx, NY 10451.

We understand that DEC has planned a 10-year, \$3.4 million project to remove the contamination from the area around that site. On your website, the final Remediation Plan was made public in October of 2022, one year ago.

The Melrose Environmental Awareness Committee represents the community, and we welcome that project.

However, that is not enough. This community has been unaware of the contamination, studies, and remediation plans for the past 20 years. Therefore, we support the community's demands for NYS/DEC to act further on its plans, to right an environmental injustice.

We stand together with the Melrose Environmental Awareness Committee in calling on you as Commissioner and NYS/DEC to take the following actions:

- 1) **Implement complete remediation.**
  - a) Full contamination testing of every building on every block in the project area. The board has reviewed the list submitted by the MEAC to your office and understands there are 190 sites within chemicals potentially contaminate.
  - b) Full remediation of every building found with contamination by PCE, or other chemicals found in the testing.
  - c) Full health testing of every person living and working in the area for contamination.

2) **Implement full and regular communication with our communities and elected officials' offices.**

NYS/DEC Environmental Remediation management must provide regular reporting sessions for the project's life in person and in the affected communities. The reporting sessions need to be detailed and answer the community's questions in multiple languages.

3) **Direct oversight in New York City**

NYS/DEC must assign Environmental Remediation staff to your NYC operations to oversee the remediation project for the life of the project. We join our elected officials call of not accepting that this project will be supervised from Albany, over 150 miles from the site and from the Melrose community, for the next ten years.

We look forward to your response to our board and this community's calls for action, and your specific plans as Commissioner to implement these recommendations.

We stand ready to engage hand in hand to help make this community whole again.

Sincerely,



Clarisa Alayeto  
Chairperson



Anthony R. Jordan  
District Manager