



REGION 1, Peter A. Scully, Regional Director
Nassau and Suffolk Counties



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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PUBLIC INVITED TO MEETING ON PATCHOGUE FORMER MGP SITE

Public Comment Period for Cleanup Remedy ends on March 25

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with the State Department of Health (DOH) and representatives from National Grid, will hold a public meeting on Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m., to present a proposed cleanup remedy to address environmental impacts related to the Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site in Patchogue, Suffolk County. (In case of extreme weather, this meeting will be rescheduled for March 17 at the same time and location.)

The meeting will be held at the Patchogue Fire Department 2nd Floor Meeting Room at 15 Jennings Avenue, Patchogue. At the meeting, DEC, DOH and National Grid staff will review the history of the site, describe the proposed remedy for the contamination and respond to questions and comments from the community.

The remedy proposed for the site includes a technique called in-situ solidification (ISS). The process would entail the mixing of MGP tar-impacted soil in place with cement and/or other hardening materials to form an impermeable, solid mass to prevent migration of MGP related contaminants. The proposed remedy also includes the excavation of a small area of off-site petroleum contamination, covering the entire site with clean soil (soil cover), land use restrictions, and a program of ongoing groundwater monitoring.

The remedial investigation determined that there are no imminent hazards to human health; however, there are potential pathways through which people could be exposed to the potentially harmful materials in the future. It has since been determined that these pathways – which could affect on-site utility workers or the future development of the site – must be addressed through remedial action.

The former MGP site is located at 234 West Main Street in the Village of Patchogue, and consists of 3.6 acres along the Patchogue River just south of where the river exits Patchogue Lake.

The MGP was constructed by the Patchogue Gas Company in approximately 1904 and produced gas continuously through 1914 and intermittently into the 1920's. It was then modified to store and distribute gas produced off-site. The distribution facility remained until the 1970's, when LILCO sold the site to third parties. From the mid-1970s through early 2005 the site was used as a refrigeration equipment and scrap storage yard, before KeySpan (the corporate successor to LILCO and the Patchogue Gas Company) acquired it in May 2005 for purposes of remediation (cleanup).

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A Preliminary Site Assessment was completed in 2003 and a Remedial Investigation in 2009. The Remedial Investigation determined that the site exhibits the characteristics of a former MGP site, with the presence of coal tar, petroleum wastes and other chemical residuals commonly associated with MGPs in soil and groundwater. The groundwater at the site flows from the northwest to the southeast. Groundwater which moves through the tar becomes contaminated, and then moves southeast and discharges into the river, where dilution and degradation quickly act on the contaminants. Site related contamination was not found in the water samples collected from the river.

A Focused Feasibility Study (FFS), developing and analyzing alternative remedial action plans, was conducted during 2010, as were additional pre-design investigations to more precisely define the locations on the site that require remediation.

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives to address MGP impacts, called a "Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study." Other alternatives presented in the Feasibility Study include no action, institutional and engineering controls, and removal of contaminated soil to varying degrees. The proposed remedy would achieve the remediation goals for the site by solidifying heavily contaminated soil. The ISS would include all areas of MGP-related source material. The deepest targeted treatment depth would be 23 feet below ground surface. A site cover to allow for restricted-residential use of the site would be installed. The proposed remedy would contain the source of MGP impacts to groundwater, and it would create the conditions needed to restore groundwater quality to the extent possible.

The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$5,930,000 of which the cost of construction is estimated to be \$5,150,000. The remainder of the cost is associated with long term monitoring and maintenance. National Grid will be financially responsible for implementation of the remedy.

Next Steps:

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. Public comments will be accepted until March 25, 2011. Please send written comments to:

Elizabeth B. Lukowski, Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(866) 520-2334
eblukows@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Following full review of received comments, the selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. This document will be made available to the public at the Patchogue/Medford Library. The project then moves to designing and performing the cleanup action to address the site contamination.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site.

Copies of investigation reports and other site documents are available at the Patchogue Medford Library at 54-60 East Main Street, Patchogue and at NYSDEC's Region One Office at 50 Circle Road, Stony Brook (please call (631) 444-0240 for an appointment). Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed to Elizabeth B. Lukowski, NYSDEC Project Manager, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7014, (866) 520-2334, or Jacquelyn Nealon, DOH Project Manager, 547 River St., Room 300, Troy, NY 12180-2216, (800) 458-1158 ext. 27880. National Grid has a hotline for neighbors of the site. The hotline provides an opportunity to ask questions or leave comments, (516) 348-6100.

For more information on DEC's Manufactured Gas Plant cleanup program, visit our website at: **<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>**

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