



FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

November 2011

Wythe Avenue (Berry Street) Former Holder Station
Site #224069
Brooklyn, Kings County, New York

Site Characterization to Begin at Wythe Ave. Former Holder Station

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and National Grid (formerly KeySpan) are announcing that a site characterization of a former manufactured gas holder station (the Site), located between N. 12th Street and N. 13th Street south of Wythe Avenue in the Williamsburg neighborhood, will begin in December 2011.

Background

In 2007, National Grid (then KeySpan) entered into a consent order with the NYSDEC that requires National Grid to investigate and where necessary, remediate former gas manufacturing and storage sites. The former Wythe Avenue holder Site was included in the consent order.

Site Description

There were two holders on the Site. Holder No. 1 was constructed in 1903 and Holder No. 2 was constructed in 1908. A map showing the location of the Site appears on Page 3. Both holders had steel tanks and were constructed with slab on grade foundations. The slab for Holder No. 1 was 11 feet below ground surface (bgs) and the slab for Holder No. 2 was 12 feet bgs. In addition, the Site had valve, boiler and exhauster houses. The gas holders and other facilities were operated by the Brooklyn Union Gas Co., Williamsburg Branch. The holders were on-site until 1965 when the site structures, including the holders, were dismantled and the property was sold. The Wythe Avenue holders operated solely as gas distribution holders. No gas production facilities were present at the site. The gas was provided to homes, businesses and industries and used in much the same way natural gas is used today. The Site is now fully developed into warehouse and commercial operations and is owned by multiple third parties.

Site Characterization

The principal contamination targeted by the site characterizations is coal tar, which is the primary by-product associated with manufactured gas sites. Coal tar is a brownish to black liquid with an odor similar to driveway sealer. It contains a variety of environmental contaminants including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX). Holder sites generally have shown far fewer environmental consequences than sites at which gas was manufactured (MGPs).

In Fall 2011, National Grid will begin a Site Characterization to determine whether any contamination related to the former gas storage operations exists in the soil or groundwater beneath the sites. Site characterization activities will include drilling of soil borings, installation of groundwater monitoring wells, and collection of soil and water samples for chemical analysis. The work will be done in street rights of way surrounding the site and on private properties under access agreements with the property owners. All work will be done under the oversight of the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH.

For More Information

NYSDEC, NYSDOH and National Grid will keep you informed throughout the remedial program. If you have any questions or if you would like to be added to the Site contact list, contact the NYSDEC Project Manager listed below. We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors or tenants and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see. If you would like more information about this project you are welcome to review site-related documents that are available to the public at the following Document Repository locations. We recommend you call ahead for an appointment.

Document Repositories:

Greenpoint Branch	Brooklyn Community Board 1	NYSDEC
Brooklyn Public Library	435 Graham Avenue	Central Office
107 Norman Avenue at	Brooklyn, NY 11211	625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Leonard Street	718-389-0009	Albany, NY 12233-7014
Brooklyn, NY 11222	District Manager:	Telephone: 518-402-9662
Tel: 718-349-8504	Gerald A. Esposito	Attn: Robin Hackett

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions

Robin Hackett
Project Manager
NYSDEC Div. of
Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518) 402-9662
rlhackett@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Chris Doroski
NYSDOH
Bureau of Environmental
Exposure Investigation
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(518) 402-7880, or
(800) 458-1158

Telephone Hotline

National Grid has a Hotline for
neighbors of the Site. The
Hotline provides an opportunity
to ask questions or leave
comments.

(718) 403-2579

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

About the Manufactured Gas Plant Program:

NYSDEC has one of the most aggressive Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site investigation and remediation programs in the country. Since the problems associated with the former MGP sites were identified, NYSDEC has been working with all the utilities on a state-wide basis to identify and address the issue of MGP sites for which they may have responsibility. This effort has resulted in approximately 235 sites being identified for action by the eight utilities operating in New York State. Currently we have multi-site orders or agreements with six utilities, including National Grid, and several other individual site volunteers, to address 222 MGP sites in NYS. Multi-site agreements are under negotiation with a seventh utility and several other responsible parties which have newly-identified sites.

NYSDEC continues to seek to identify any other possible MGP sites throughout the State.

For more information about the NYSDEC's MGP program, visit: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites. County email listservs are available at the following web page: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's *quick*, it's *free*, and it will help keep you *better informed*. As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select. You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

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