



# FACT SHEET

## Manufactured Gas Plant Program

February 2012

### **Former Jamaica Gas Light Company Manufactured Gas Plant, Queens NY**

**Site #241063**

### **Former Jamaica Gas Holder Site, Queens NY**

**Site #241062**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and National Grid (formerly KeySpan) are announcing that the site characterizations of a former manufactured gas holder station, located between 158th and former 159th Streets, north of Liberty Avenue, and a nearby former manufactured gas plant (MGP) located between 158th and former 159th Streets, south of Beaver Road, Jamaica, New York ("Site") will begin in February 2012.

#### **Site Descriptions**

The former MGP manufactured gas from coal and oil from at least 1886 to the early 1900s. The Site was operated by the Jamaica Gas Light Company from some time prior to 1897 to sometime before 1911 and by the Brooklyn Union Gas Co. (BUG), a predecessor to National Grid, from some time prior to 1911. Manufacture of gas at the Site ceased in the early 1900's, and the Site was used only for gas storage until the 1930's, at which time the gas storage facilities were decommissioned and demolished. The property was used as offices by BUG until the early 1970's when it was sold to a third party.

The former holder station was used as a storage and distribution facility from approximately 1944 until 1982, at which time it was decommissioned and demolished and later sold to a third party. No gas was manufactured at that Site. The gas was provided to homes, businesses and industries and used in much the same way natural gas is used today. Additional information on manufactured gas plants can be found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>.

#### **Site Characterization**

The principal contamination targeted by the site characterizations is coal tar, which is the primary byproduct 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).

#### **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 Jamaica MGP and holder sites were included in the consent order.

In February 2012, National Grid will begin site characterizations at each location to determine whether any contamination related to the former gas manufacturing or 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. All work will be done under the supervision 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 project contact list, contact the NYSDEC Project Manager. 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 locations. We recommend you call ahead for an appointment.

Queens Public Library  
Jamaica Branch  
89-11 Merrick  
Boulevard  
NY 11432  
Tel.: (718) 990-0700

NYSDEC Central Office,  
625 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Albany, New York 12233-7014  
Attn: Robin Hackett  
Tel. : (518) 402-9662  
email: [rlhackett@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:rlhackett@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Community Board 12  
Yvonne Reddick, District Manager  
90-28 161<sup>st</sup> St  
Jamaica, NY 11432  
Tel.: (718) 658-3308

## 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  
Tel.: (518) 402-9662

### Site-Related Health Questions

Stephanie Selmer  
NYSDOH  
Bureau of Environmental  
Exposure Investigation  
547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180-2216  
Tel.: (518) 402-7860

### Telephone Hotline

National Grid has a Hotline for  
neighbors of the Sites. The  
Hotline provides an  
opportunity to ask questions or  
leave comments.  
Tel.: (718) 403-3031

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**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.**

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### **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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html)

## Jamaica Manufactured Gas Plant and Jamaica Holder Sites Map



### 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](http://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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