



FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Remedial Program

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Port Jervis Former MGP Site
Site ID 336049
City of Port Jervis, NY

March 2011

Project Update **Design Investigation Ongoing at Former MGP Site**

Further investigations are about to begin that will provide data for the design of the remedy selected for the Port Jervis Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site (“site”), which is located at 16 Pike Street in the City of Port Jervis, Orange County. See map for site location. The remediation is being conducted under New York’s MGP Remedial Program by Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R), the site owner. O&R has agreed to investigate and remediate the site to a level that is protective of public health and the environment. The investigation and remediation are being performed with the oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

Summary of the Selected Remedy

In the Record of Decision dated December 2007, the NYSDEC selected a remedy which included the following elements:

- Excavation of on-site “source area” soils. Demolishing, excavating, and removing the former MGP structures and their contents.
- Re-establishing pavement at the site to prevent exposure to contaminated soils.
- Installing subsurface collection wells to remove liquid MGP wastes from the subsurface. Wastes generated at MGP sites include an oily, liquid substance sometimes referred to as coal tar.
- Installing groundwater treatment wells downgradient of the site to intercept and treat the groundwater plume extending south from the site, towards the Delaware River.
- Establishing a Site Management Plan for future use and activity at the site and environmental easements.

Highlights of the Upcoming Activities

The purpose of the upcoming investigations is to gather further information regarding the subsurface conditions at the site, so as to properly design coal tar collection and groundwater treatment systems.

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 identified for action by the eight utilities operating in New York State.

Currently NYSDEC has executed multi-site orders or agreements with six utilities, including O&R, 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 for 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

A survey will be conducted to provide an image of subsurface conditions based on the electrical conductivity of the subsurface materials. A series of short, metal probes (about 18 inches long) will be inserted into the ground along a straight line and an electric current will be applied. The current does not pose an electrical shock risk. Measurements obtained from the line of probes will provide information about the subsurface which may be able to be used to help locate soil borings and/or wells.

Soil borings and monitoring wells will also be installed. A drill rig will be used to install borings in an off-site area to the south. The borings and wells will provide further information to determine the location of coal tar collection and groundwater treatment systems. The borings and wells will also be used to verify the results of the subsurface survey described above. Coal tar collection wells may also be installed if soil borings indicate a likely need for a collection well in a given location.

Data will be gathered for several weeks following installation of soil borings that will assist in designing the coal tar collection system (*e.g.*, pumps, treatment system, etc.) and to design a groundwater treatment system. The groundwater treatment is planned to enhance the natural biological breakdown of site contaminants. The data will help determine whether nutrients or oxygen or both should be introduced to the subsurface environment to remediate the groundwater.

Next Steps

O&R is expected to begin the subsurface survey on or about March 31, 2011, which is anticipated to take about 2 days. The soil borings and well installation is expected to begin on or about April 4, 2011 and anticipated to take about 6-8 weeks. Following the drilling program, groundwater samples will be collected periodically from any wells installed.

After completing these activities, O&R will prepare a report documenting the results of the investigation.

NYSDEC and O&R will keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site.

Background

The Port Jervis Former MGP was operated by O&R's predecessor companies from the mid-1800s to approximately 1959. The plant ceased regular operations in 1938, but may have continued operating in some capacity for some time thereafter. MGPs manufactured gas which was distributed to the surrounding area for use for heating and lighting. The gas was generated

by heating coal and/or petroleum. Freshly-manufactured gas had to be cooled and its impurities removed before it could be used. An oily, liquid waste was generated by these processes, which is often referred to as coal tar. Some of the waste coal tar was released to the environment. The coal tar contains a number of chemical contaminants, primarily: benzene; toluene; ethylbenzene; xylenes (BTEX); and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

The Port Jervis Former MGP site is approximately 1.2 acres and is located in a predominantly residential and commercial area. The site is currently the location of an operation facility for O&R. MGP-related contamination is present on-site and extends off-site to the south.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the decision document describing the selected remedy for the site, called the “Record of Decision” and the Remedial Design Work Plan, which outlines the activities to be conducted to design the components of the remedy.

Port Jervis Free Library
138 Pike Street
Port Jervis, NY 12771
845-856-7313

Hours:

Mon., Tues. & Thurs – 10 am to 9 pm
Wed. & Fri. – 10 am to 6 pm
Sat. – 10 am to 5 pm

NYSDEC Region 3 Headquarters
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
845-256-3154

Contact: Michael Knipfing

Hours: Mon. – Fri. – 8:30 am to 4:45 pm
By Appointment

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

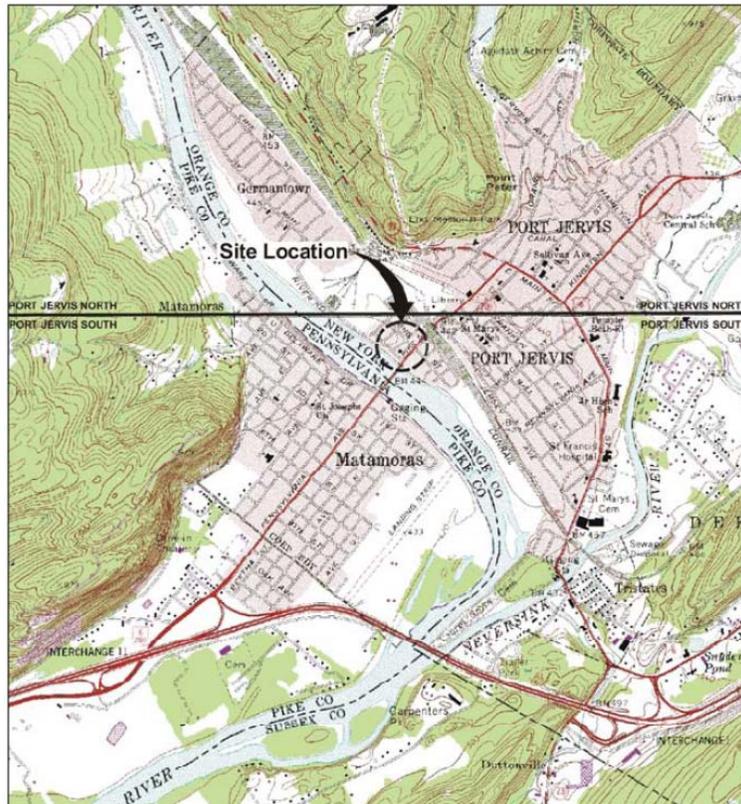
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As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

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.