

Fact Sheet

April 2005

New York State
Department of



**Environmental
Conservation**

Village of Cold Spring One Main Street

This fact sheet is to inform the public about contamination found at One Main Street in the Village of Cold Spring, NY and about plans to investigate that contamination. Any questions should be referred to the individuals listed in this fact sheet.

Background :

On February 11, 2005, during an archeological investigation at One Main Street in the Village of Cold Spring, a black material that appeared to be petroleum related was uncovered. The material was reported to the NYSDEC as a petroleum spill (Spill #04-12054). An independent contractor was hired by the site owner to investigate the spill. Soil samples were collected from the four archeological test pits for laboratory analysis. Soil samples were also collected from four new soil borings. The analysis of these samples indicated that substantial subsurface contamination was present at only one test pit location. The contamination found appears to be coal tar, not the result of a petroleum spill. As such Spill #04-12054 has been closed and the site was referred to the Environmental Remediation staff.

A review of historic documents identified that a manufactured gas plant (MGP) had operated in the late 1800's in the area of the current boat club property, which is across New Street from the reported spill location at One Main Street. This MGP produced a combustible gas from coal used for lighting, heating and cooking. Coal tar is the primary byproduct associated with MGP plant sites, having condensed from the hot gas produced by the plant as it cooled. Coal tar was also sometimes used in chemical processing and for wood treatment (Note: the property at One Main Street was historically a lumber yard). Coal tar is a brownish to black substance with an odor similar to driveway sealer. Coal tar contains chemicals including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX).

Proposed Actions:

The NYSDEC plans to initiate a site characterization of the former MGP site in approximately 3 weeks, during which time an environmental contractor will be hired and all access and utility clearances obtained. This will help determine whether any remnants of the MGP and residual coal tar are present in the subsurface at the old plant site. This investigation will also evaluate whether any contamination has migrated off-site. The work will involve driving a 2 inch diameter tube in the ground using a hydraulic hammer and extracting soil samples. The characteristics of the soil will be recorded as part of the investigation, and samples will be sent to a laboratory for chemical analysis. Although this work is minimally invasive, and would not be expected to create any objectionable dust or odors, the air quality in the vicinity of the work site will be monitored. The results of the investigation will be reported in a fact sheet similar to this one, and a report of the investigation will be made available for public review at the local document repositories which will be established at the Village Hall and the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library.

In addition, a preliminary work plan was recently received from the owner of the former lumberyard site. This work plan will be reviewed by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to determine the appropriate course of action for delineating and removing the contamination encountered on this property. When finalized, this plan will also be placed in the local document repositories.

For Further Information:

All those who received this fact sheet will be included in future mailings concerning the upcoming investigation. If you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, please have them contact the Citizen Participation Specialist listed on the next page.

**For More Information About
The MGP Investigation:**

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**To be added to the
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