



Cold Spring Former MGP Site Village of Cold Spring, Site No. 3-40-026

This fact sheet is to inform the public about the preliminary investigation of contamination found at a former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) recently identified in the Village of Cold Spring by the Department and the plans to further investigate the site. Questions relative to the site should be referred to the individuals listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Background

Following a report that coal tar related contamination was encountered during an excavation related to the development on the One Main Street property, a review of historic documents identified a manufactured gas plant (MGP) which had been located in the area of the current boat club property. This MGP operated in the late 1800's, producing a combustible gas from coal which was 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 is a brownish to black substance with an odor similar to driveway sealer. Coal tar contains many chemical compounds, including a class known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX). Based on the historic presence of the MGP, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) prepared a work plan for a Site Characterization to investigate the possible presence of the MGP.

MGP Site Characterization

On May 11-12, 2005, Department staff conducted a Site Characterization investigation of the former MGP site adjacent to the boat club on New Street. This investigation confirmed the presence of former MGP structures and found coal tar in their immediate vicinity. As shown on the attached figure, these structures are located below the ground surface, immediately uphill from the Boat House. The coal tar appears to have moved in the subsurface from the structures downward to a clay layer located 11-13 feet below ground. The coal tar then appears to move along the top of this clay layer, under the boat house and under New Street.

Lumber Yard Site

Based upon the contamination previously found in the archeological test pit, the owner of the former lumberyard property at 1 Main Street completed additional soil borings at that property on May 25, 2005, with representatives of the Department present. These soil borings showed a relatively small area of contamination on the southern boundary of the property. Some of this contamination was present only along the top of the clay layer described earlier under "MGP Site", and appears to have migrated from the MGP across the street. Other contamination appeared to be heaviest near the ground surface and may be related to possible wood treating by the lumberyard. The DEC is currently working with the property owner to ensure that all necessary investigation and remediation of this property is completed.

Next Steps: Based on the results of the site characterization, a full remedial investigation will be required at the MGP site to define the nature and extent of the MGP contamination. The DEC is currently discussing options for undertaking this investigation with the Village, which owns the former MGP property. Relative to One Main Street, a report summarizing their findings will be submitted by the property owner, along with a proposal for further action.

For Further Information: The Site Characterization Report describing the work on the MGP site, is available at the site document repositories located at the Village Hall and the Public Library. 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 Mike Knipfing at the address on the back.

For More Information About:

The MGP Investigation:

William Ottaway
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518) 402-9564 or email at:
wsottawa@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Concerns:

Bridget Callaghan
NYSDOH
Flanigan Sq., 547 River St.
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(800) 458-1158 x 27850 or
email at: beei@health.state.ny.us

Being Added to the Site Mailing List:

Michael Knipfing
NYSDEC
21 So Putt Corners Rd.
New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 256-3154

