

Public Meeting Invitation

**Thursday,
February 28th
7:00 pm**

Stockade Building, Room 101
Schenectady County
Community College
State Street and Washington
Ave. Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 388-4544

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed remedy for the Niagara Mohawk, Schenectady Broadway Site. At the meeting, representatives from the NYSDOH and NYSDOH will:

- Describe results of the site investigations;
- Explain the proposed remedy;
- Answer your questions about the remedy;
- Receive your verbal or written comments about the proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

From: 2/15/08
To: 3/17/08

FACT SHEET

Niagara Mohawk, Schenectady,

Broadway Former MGP Site

SITE No. 4-47-026

February 2008

790 Broadway, Schenectady, NY 12305

Remedy Proposed for the Niagara Mohawk Schenectady, Broadway Former MGP Site

Public Meeting, Comment Period Announced

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed a remedy designed to address contamination found at the Niagara Mohawk Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site, 790 Broadway, Schenectady.

The Proposed Action: Highlights of the proposed remedy include:

1. constructing a sub-surface containment barrier to prevent contamination from moving off-site;
2. excavating shallow contaminated soil for proper treatment or disposal;
3. providing an asphalt cap to prevent on-site personnel from coming in contact with contamination and isolating the on-site stream from contamination.

This proposal is described in the site's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), which was developed following a detailed investigation of the site. The PRAP evaluates different clean up options for the site and presents the alternative preferred by NYSDOH and NYSDOH.

See pages two and three of this fact sheet for a summary of the PRAP, site background, and summary of the site investigation. The full PRAP is available for your review at the document repositories listed on page four

Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy: Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for the site. Your input regarding the proposed remedy is important and encouraged.

Oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the public meeting (see sidebar) and during a public comment period which runs until March 17th. Written comments also may be mailed until the end of the comment period to:

William Ottaway
NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014

What Happens Next: All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for the Site is finalized. Public input will be factored into the record of decision (ROD) which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. NYSDOH will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary included in the ROD.

Site History

The MGP on Broadway in Schenectady was constructed in 1903. Since that time it has been owned and operated by several utility companies, the most recent being National Grid. The MGP used coal and petroleum to manufacture gas for heating and lighting local homes and businesses. Gas production increased until 1927, when a regional plant in Troy became the primary source of manufactured gas to the city of Schenectady. By 1930, several of the gas manufacturing structures had been converted to other uses. All gas production ceased by the 1950s.

In 1950, a corporate predecessor to National Grid (Niagara Mohawk) assumed ownership of the property. The original gas holders and other former MGP facility structures were reportedly removed from the property in 1961. The property is now used for natural gas distribution and as a depot for staging utility trucks and other equipment.

Site Investigation

Working under a November 7, 2003 consent agreement with NYSDEC, National Grid recently completed the investigation of this site. The investigation defined the nature and extent of contamination at this site, as well as described the physical geology and hydrogeology of the property.

- Coal tar was found in three areas of the property. Some coal tar appears to have migrated under the railroad track west of the site, but coal tar was not identified beyond the tracks.
- Coal tar was not found in any off-site groundwater monitoring well or in any off-site soil sample.
- Contaminated groundwater is present only in relatively close proximity to the coal tar. Most of the chemicals in coal tar do not readily dissolve or otherwise migrate in the groundwater. The chemicals that are most soluble are readily consumed by naturally occurring microorganisms. Groundwater contamination extends a short distance west and north from the site. The area to the north is an isolated location between railroad tracks. To the west, only the deep groundwater is contaminated, and this water is isolated from the public and the environment by a more shallow layer of clean groundwater.
- There is a layer of impermeable material deep

under the site which prevents coal tar from moving further downward.

- Four areas of impacted sediment were identified within the portion of Schermerhorn Creek that crosses the property. However, no surface water impacts were identified, and no off-site sediment contamination was observed.

Coupled with several prior investigations of the property, the data and information resulting from the Supplemental Remedial Investigation (SRI) is of sufficient quality and quantity to allow NYSDEC to propose a remedy.

Summary of Proposed Remedial Action

The site is located at 790 Broadway, just west of Route 890. The site is currently a National Grid service center and is bounded by Broadway, Weaver Street and two railroad lines.

The PRAP identifies the remedy preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to clean up the coal tar contamination in the soil, groundwater and sediment. The proposed alternative was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives for remediating the contamination.

The elements of the proposed remedy include:

- constructing a sub-surface containment barrier to prevent contamination from moving off-site;
- collection and removal of tar within the containment area;
- excavating shallow contaminated soil for proper treatment or disposal;
- providing an asphalt cap to prevent on-site personnel from coming in contact with contamination and isolating the on-site stream from contamination;
- Evaluating the current and future potential for exposures from soil vapor intrusion due to site related contamination in soil vapor and groundwater;
- Providing institutional controls to restrict the use of groundwater on-site, restrict future site use to commercial or industrial uses, and would require a site management plan and periodic certification to ensure the remedy continues to be effective.

Costs and Funding for the Site Remedy

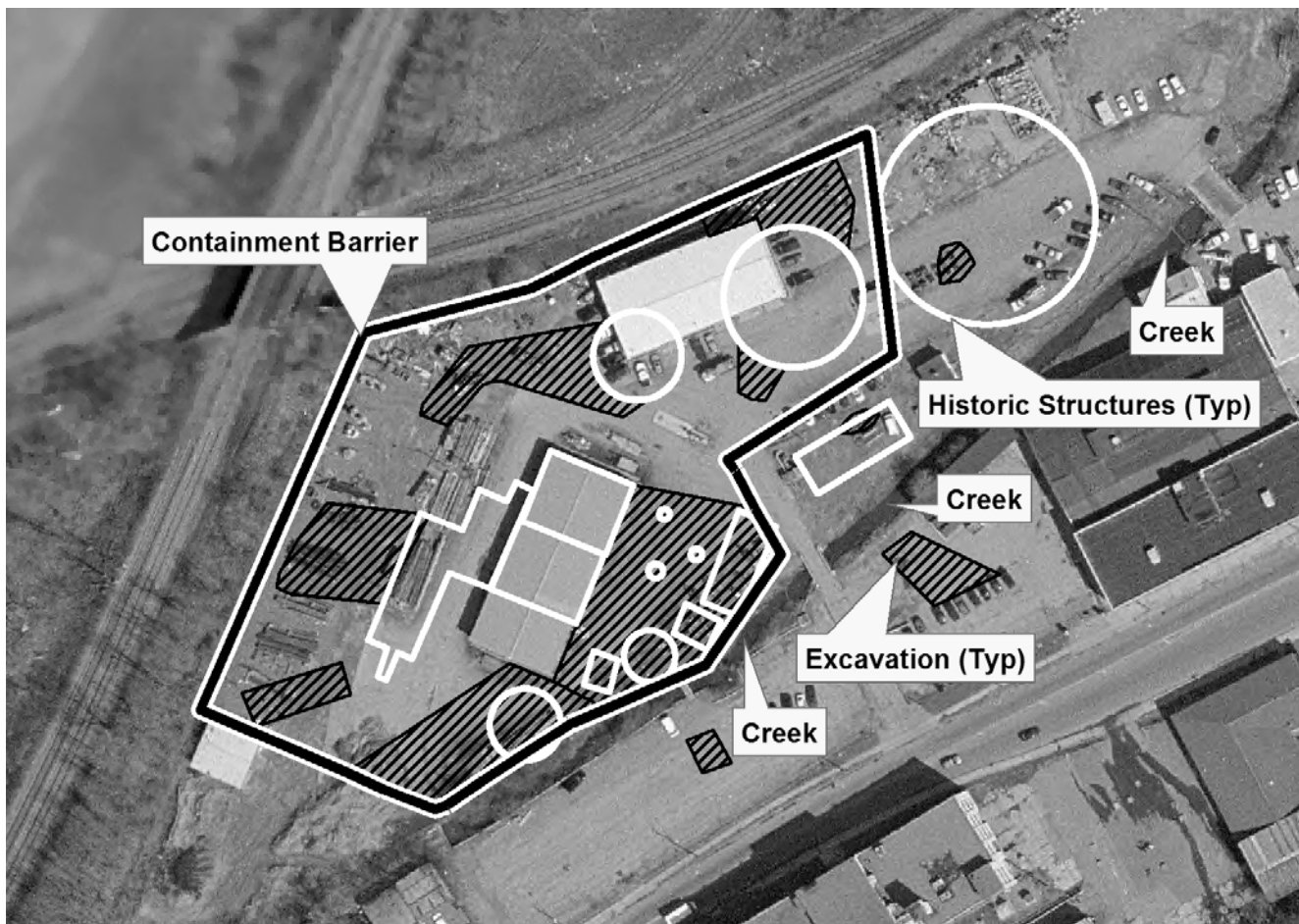
The cost to construct and implement the proposed remedy is estimated at \$21,787,000. The cleanup will be implemented and paid for by National Grid.

NYSDEC and the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation entered into a Consent Order on December 7, 1992 requiring the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation to implement a full remedial program. This Order was superseded by a separate order dated November 7, 2003, signed by National Grid.

Health Issues

Under the current and future use scenarios, the following potential exposure pathways have been identified:

- On-site workers and construction workers may come in contact with MGP waste during sub-surface excavation and may be exposed to site related contamination through dermal (skin) contact, ingestion, or inhalation of vapors and airborne particulates.
- The potential for future contaminant exposures from ingestion or dermal contact from on-site or off-site groundwater is unlikely due to the availability of a public water supply. However, potential exposure to contaminated groundwater could occur if a drinking water well were installed on-site.
- People in on-site and off-site buildings could be exposed via inhalation of MGP associated vapors accumulating in the indoor air. The investigations necessary to fully evaluate this pathway have not been completed, but a work plan has been approved to begin this evaluation.
- There is the potential for on-site workers or trespassers to be exposed through direct contact or incidental ingestion of on-site sediment of Schermerhorn Creek.



Document Repositories: To review the complete PRAP and other site information:

Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305-2083
(518) 388-4500
Mon-Thurs: 9am - 9pm
Fri, Sat: 9am - 5pm
Sun : 1pm - 5pm

NYSDEC
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518) 402-9564
Mon-Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Attn: William Ottaway

For More Information: Call or write the following staff for more information about:

Meeting/Comment Period/Technical Information:

William Ottaway
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7014
wsottawa@gw.dec.state.ny.us
(518) 402-9686

Health-Related Information:

Maureen Schuck
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
mer10@health.state.ny.us
(518) 402-7860

Location Map

