



Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECInfo Locator and at these location(s):

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/447053/>
and
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/V00474/>

Document Repositories

Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 274-7071

Who to Contact:

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

Project-Related Questions

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For more information about New York's Manufactured Gas Plant Program, visit:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html

September 2022

SITE No. 447053
NYSDEC Region 4

Cleanup Action to Begin Near Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Action is about to begin that will address off-site contamination related to the Schenectady Clinton St. Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site, located at 375 Broadway in the City of Schenectady, Schenectady County under New York's Manufactured Gas Plant Program. The work will be occurring west of Broadway near the railroad embankment. Please see the map for the site location.

A manufactured gas plant operated at 375 Broadway from approximately 1851 to 1906. Environmental impacts from the former plant have been documented at the site and in the off-site area on the west side of Broadway. Cleanup of the site will be done in phases. To facilitate the phasing, NYSDEC has designated the former MGP Site as operable unit (OU) 01 and the off-site impacted area as operable unit 02. The former MGP is currently a parking lot for the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority.

The cleanup activities will be performed by National Grid ("remedial party") with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Remedial activities are expected to begin in October 2022 and last approximately 5 months. This area is an off-site area of the former MGP site that contains contamination that was either directly disposed or migrated from the former MGP site. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the locations identified to the left under "Where to Find Information."

Contamination at the location of the on-site former MGP is scheduled for cleanup in 2024.

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities: The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the remedy are:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 7,000 cubic yards of MGP-contaminated soil. Clean backfill that meets the NYSDEC soil cleanup objectives will be brought in and used to restore the site grade.
- Installation of a cover system. The cover system will consist of either a one-foot clean soil cover, existing structures or pavement in areas where the upper one foot of exposed surface soil exceeds the applicable soil cleanup objectives.
- Installation of wells to allow for the observation and collection of coal tar.
- Establishment of a site management plan which will detail the soil handling procedure in the event of future excavations.
- A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented during remediation activities. The HASP and CAMP establish procedures to protect on-site workers and nearby residents and includes required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

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Next Steps: After cleanup activities are completed, including activities at the former MGP site location, National Grid will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER). The FER will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Site Description: The two-acre former MGP Site is located at the current parking lot for the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority at the intersection of Broadway and Clinton Street. A seven-story public housing building occupies the southern end of the site. Parking lots and commercial buildings comprise the majority of operable unit 02.

The site is one of approximately 250 former MGP sites that existed across New York State in the early 20th century. The Clinton Street Plant was operated by National Grid predecessor companies from approximately 1851 to 1906.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, 447053) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pag eid=3>

Summary of the Investigation: Coal tar was generated during the manufactured gas process. Coal tar contains a number of chemical contaminants, primarily benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Some of these compounds were detected in the subsurface soil and groundwater in the area of the planned soil removal.

MGP Program Overview: New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. Sites where

contamination has been released to the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

The gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network. The gas was used for heating and cooking much like natural gas is used today. In the early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights. A dense, oily liquid known as coal tar would condense out of the gas at various stages during its production, purification and distribution, and be discharged to the subsurface.

Due to the potential for coal tar odor, during the cleanup odors will be monitored. An odor-suppressing foam will be in use and soil will be covered when not being handled to minimize any odor.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds. This site cleanup will be completed by National Grid pursuant to an Order on Consent with the NYSDEC.

For more information about the MGPs, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>

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.

Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>

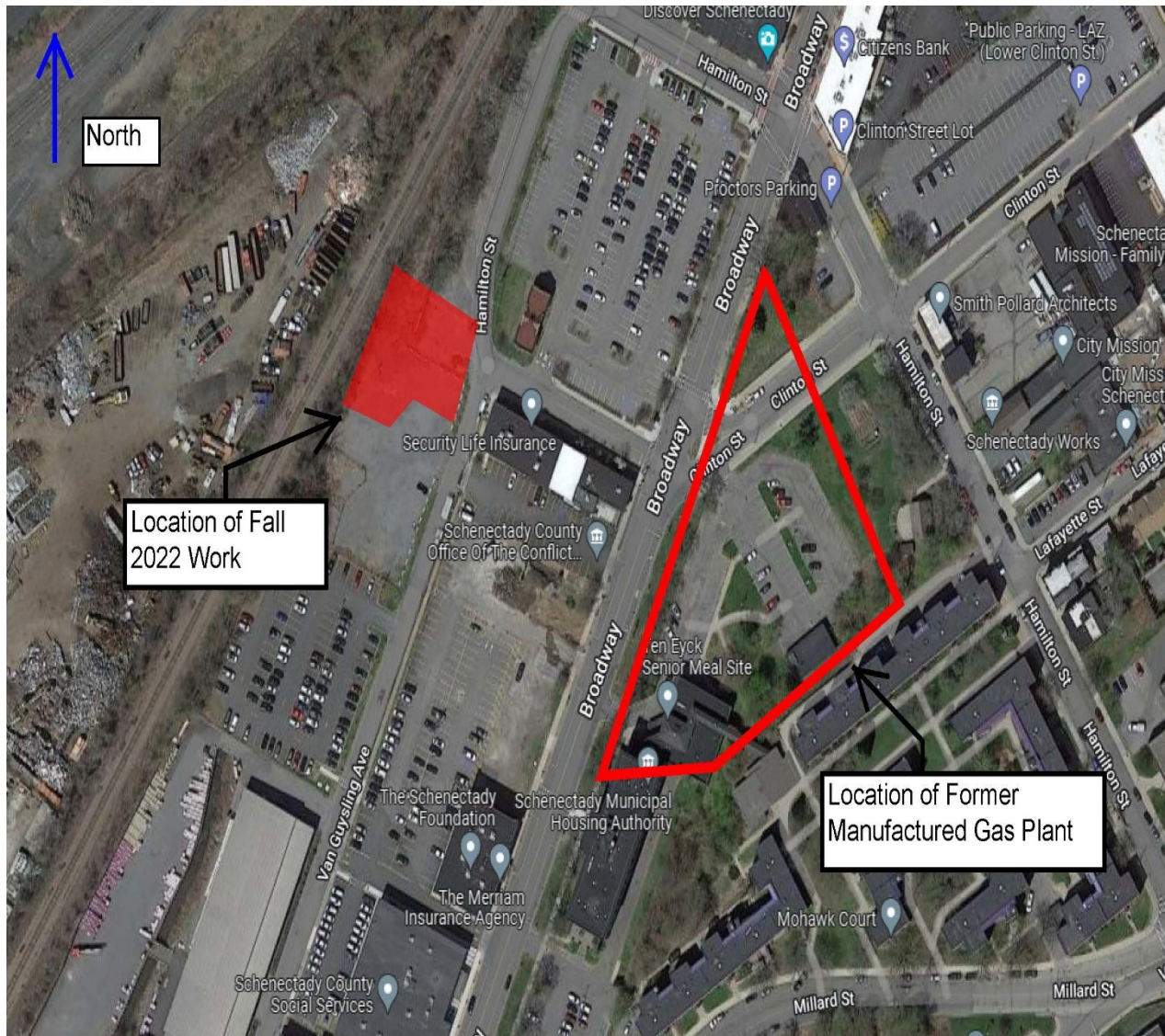
Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

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Site Location





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