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NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

This Fact Sheet contains information about the Remedial Action at the Saranac Street MGP site in the City of Plattsburgh, N.Y. If you have any questions on the the Remedial Action, please contact:

NYSDEC Site Trailer 518-561-2138

Mr. Lech Dolata Project Manager NYSDEC 625 Broadway, 11th Floor Albany, NY 12233-7014 (518) 402-9662

For Citizen Participation questions, contact:

Mr. David Winchell

Citizen Participation Specialist NYSDEC, Region 5 Office 1115 State Route 86, PO Box 296 Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296

(518) 897-1200

For site-related health questions, please contact:

Ms. Wendy Kuehner, PE Sanitary Engineer

NYSDOH Flanigan Square Room 300, 547 River Street Troy, NY 12180-2216 1-(800)-458-1158 ext.27870 or (518) 402-7870

For site related questions, please contact:

Mr. Bert W. Finch Project Manager NYSEG 607-762-8683

FACT SHEET

SARANAC STREET MGP SITE

Site No. 5-10-007 October 2007

River cleanup work is postponed

New schedule for removal of contaminated Saranac River sediments now scheduled for July 2008

The cleanup of contaminated sediments next to the former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site on Saranac Street has been postponed due to discovery of additional contamination. Preparation work for the removal of contaminated Saranac River sediments began in early September 2007 with the installation of portable coffer dams to keep river water out of the work areas. As the installation of the coffer dams progressed, it was determined that the contaminated river sediments extend beyond the boundaries of previously determined contaminated areas - Area 1 and Area 2 (see the map). Additional sampling of the bottom of the river helped to determine the current extent of the river bed contamination. As a result, the quantity of contaminated sediments to be removed is significantly larger.

Since it was not possible to complete work in Areas 1 and 2 by September 30, the date necessary to protect fish spawning, NYSEG dismantled the coffer dams and postponed the sediment removal. This work will now start in July 2008 and will last an about 40 days.

REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

After the summer shutdown of soil removal activities, the excavation of lightly contaminated soil in Cell No.1 of the Upland Area resumed in September 2007. Odors are monitored and controlled in accordance with the Enhanced Odor Control Plan. This includes application of odor neutralizers and operation of a mist generating neutralization system.

Fifty four activated carbon air filters, capable of filtering out volatile substances that cause odors, were installed on the Stafford Middle School air handling system in May 2007. These filters are changed on a monthly basis to ensure their effectiveness.

During the summer, NYSEG continued to install a 24 inch storm sewer and pavement along Caroline Street, in areas where MGP waste was not found during the preliminary investigation. That work is nearly complete. Removal of material from the former lagoon area - where contaminant levels are highest - will start when the air temperature drops to 50° F or cooler. The lagoon excavation work is expected to resume at the end of November 2007.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

Air quality is monitored at four locations whenever the contractors are working: at the point of work, at one upwind location and at two downwind locations along the perimeter of the site. Also, additional air monitoring stations have been added at the Stafford Middle School. One air monitoring station is located at the school's main air intake. The second station is located at the soccer field.

Air monitoring stations measure the concentration of particulates (dust particles) in the air, and the concentration of vapors. The stations are equipped with alarms that will trigger at contamination levels below the specific action levels for this site. This will enable the site manager to take steps to lower levels of contaminants in the air before the action levels are reached. Steps taken in response to the alarm could include applying odor control sprays and foam, adjusting excavating and soil handling operations, or shutting down vapor and odor-generating activities until contaminant levels are reduced.

The contaminated soil excavated from the Saranac Street site, like most MGP waste, exhibits an odor that is similar to coal tar based driveway sealer. The odor threshold for this type of waste is much lower than the action levels. However, the Enhanced Odor Control Plan requires that corrective actions be taken if odors are present, whether action levels have been reached or not.

SITE BACKGROUND

Gas was manufactured at the Saranac Street site from 1896 until 1944 by the Plattsburgh Light, Heat and Power Company, and then until 1960 by NYSEG. Manufactured gas was produced by heating coal and other petroleum products in the presence of steam. The gas was used by local businesses and residents for lighting, cooking, heating and other purposes.

Byproducts of the manufactured gas process often remained at sites after manufactured gas plants were closed. These byproducts can include coal tar, purifier wastes and coal ash.

NYSEG began investigating this site in 1976. Work in the 1980s included construction of a soil/bentonite slurry containment barrier around the former coal tar lagoon, construction of a slurry wall next to the Saranac River and removal of river sediments affected by coal tar.

NYSEG installed a groundwater treatment facility in 1987, and since then NYSEG has been actively managing the site. NYSDEC and NYSEG entered into a multi-site Consent Order in 1994, which included cleanup of the Saranac Street MGP site.

NYSEG completed an interim remedial measure project in 2002 that involved the excavation and off-site disposal of coal tar soil from the east side of Saranac Street.

The entire plant area was excavated to a depth of at least 4 feet, and gas holder foundations, piping and other remnants of the manufactured gas plant were removed.

All work is being performed in accordance with a work plan developed by NYSEG and approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The health and safety plan which is implemented at the site was reviewed by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and DEC. Following completion of the clean-up work, the site will be covered with two feet of clean soil and seeded.

NYSEG will continue to investigate sediments downstream in the Saranac River and Cumberland Bay, under a separate work plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact project personnel listed in the box on the first page of this Fact Sheet or visit the document repositories listed below.

Plattsburgh Public Library

19 Oak Street Plattsburgh, NY (518) 563-0921

NYSDEC

Contact: Lech Dolata 625 Broadway, 11th Floor Albany, NY 12233-7014 (518) 402-9662 Russell Huyck, PE NYSDEC Region 5 1115 State Route 86 Ray Brook NY 12977 (518) 897 1242For more information about DEC's MGP cleanup program, please visit our web site at:

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

