

**FACT SHEET****State Superfund
Program**

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email*. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: Saranac Lake Gas Co. Inc.
DEC Site #: 516008 Operable Units 01, 02, 03 *
Address: Payeville Road
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Have questions?
See
"Who to Contact"
Below

Investigation to Begin at State Superfund Site

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will soon begin a detailed environmental study at the Saranac Lake Gas Co. Inc. site ("site") located at Payeville Road, Saranac Lake, Essex County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Investigation Work Plan

The investigation work plan, called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan/Scope of Work," was developed under New York's State Superfund Program. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will perform the investigation which will assess conditions on-site (and, if appropriate, off-site).

Highlights of the Site Investigation

The purpose of the investigation is to define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected. The site investigation will fully characterize all contamination at the site. The site has been separated into three operable units, OU 01, OU 02 and OU 03. See Page 3 for more information.

Summary of the Investigation for OU 01:

OU 01 is the former gas plant property. The investigation will evaluate and report on the nature and extent of manufactured gas plant (MGP) related contamination of soil and groundwater at the site, map the extent of soil and groundwater contamination above cleanup objectives, and evaluate fish and wildlife resources that occur in the vicinity of the site.

*Operable Unit: An administrative term used to identify a portion of a site that can be addressed by a distinct investigation and/or cleanup approach. An operable unit can receive specific investigation, and a particular remedy may be proposed.

Summary of the Investigation for OU 02:

OU 02 is Brandy Brook from the former gas plant to Pontiac Bay on Lake Flower. The investigation will evaluate and report on the nature and extent of MGP related contamination of surface water, sediments, and soils in and along Brandy Brook, map the extent of contamination above cleanup objectives, and evaluate fish and wildlife resources that occur in the vicinity of the brook.

Summary of the Investigation for OU 03:

OU 03 is Pontiac Bay of Lake Flower. The investigation will evaluate and report on the nature and extent of MGP related contamination of surface water, sediments, and soils in and along Pontiac Bay and Lake Flower, map the extent of contamination above cleanup objectives, and evaluate fish and wildlife resources that occur in the vicinity of the bay.

The area is serviced by a public water supply. A private well survey will still be conducted in the areas of the operable units. Homeowners should notify DEC or DOH if they maintain a private well for drinking or other purposes.

Next Steps

The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a report. After the site investigation has begun, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will conduct a "Feasibility Study". This study uses information developed during the site investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination related to the site. The information collected during the site investigation may also support the conclusion that no action, or no further action, is needed to address site-related contamination.

NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan". This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC, or, if warranted, a no action or no further action alternative. The draft cleanup plan explains the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the draft cleanup plan in a future fact sheet, and will present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

Background

Location: The Saranac Lake Gas Company site, a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) facility, is located in a residential setting on Payeville Road in the Village of Saranac Lake, Essex County. The site is approximately 4.5 acres in size and lies east of and adjacent to the Adirondack Scenic Rail Road. Residential properties border the site to the north and east, and recreational facilities/soccer playing fields border the south.

Site Features: The site is a fenced storage yard and was up until recently used to stage/store propane gas cylinders, tanks and miscellaneous debris.

Current zoning: The site is zoned commercial and is currently unoccupied.

Past Use of the Site: From the late 1800s to approximately the 1940s, the site was used for manufacturing lighting gas via coal gasification for the Village of Saranac Lake. The operations consisted of two gas holders, a purifier, retort operations, along with coal storage areas and offices. No original structures exist on site today with the exception of a raised concrete storage pad and concrete foundation for one of the gas holders. The past activities at the site have resulted in contamination, both on and off-site.

A remedial investigation is warranted to determine the nature and extent of soil, groundwater contamination onsite, and the extent of sediment contamination and potential surface water contamination in the affected waterbodies.

Operable Units: The site has been separated into three operable units (OUs). An operable unit represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination. The operable units are the former gasification plant property (OU 01), Brandy Brook running from the site to Pontiac Bay of Lake Flower (OU 02), and Pontiac Bay/Lake Flower (OU 03).

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Groundwater is very shallow at the site (less than 5'), a small brook (Brandy) runs thru the northern portions the site. Brandy Brook discharges in Lake Flower approximately 2,000 feet downgradient of the site.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/x/EXTAPPS/DEREXTERNAL/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=516008>

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed:

NYSDEC Region 5
Attn: Michael P. McLean
2986 Route 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977
phone: 518-897-1243
(mpmclean@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Saranac Lake Free Library
100 Main Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
phone: 518-891-4190

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37562.html>

Who to Contact

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

Michael Mclean
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
1115 State Route 86 PO Box 296
Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296
518-897-1254
mpmclean@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Wendy Kuener
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
BEEI@health.state.ny.us

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.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox.

NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page:

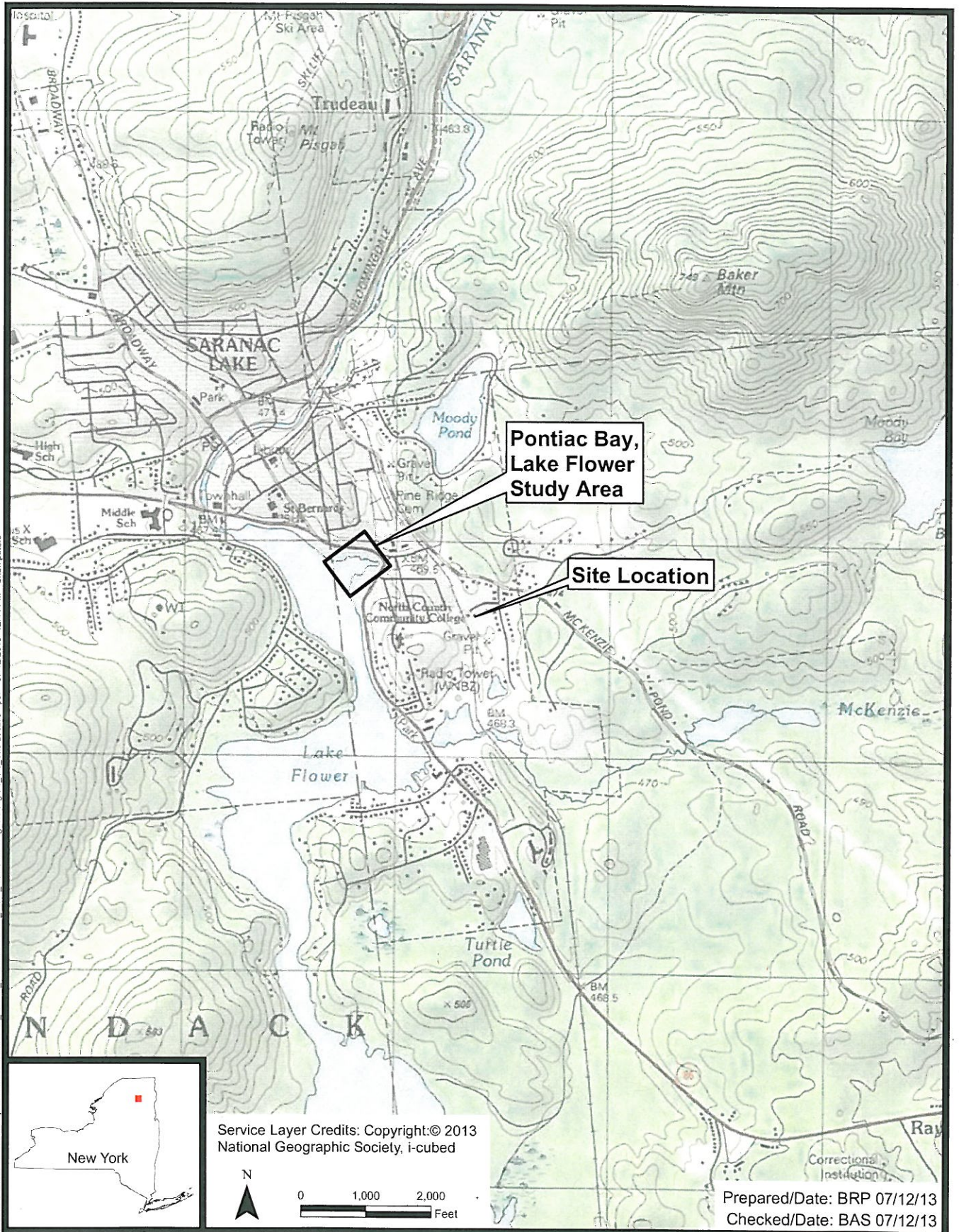
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.



As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

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

Document: P:\Projects\physdec\Contract D007619\Projects\Saranac Lake - RI FS4.0 Deliverables\4.5 Databases\GIS\MapDocuments\SiteLocationMap.mxd
PDF: P:\Projects\physdec\Contract D007619\Projects\Saranac Lake - RI FS4.0 Deliverables\4.2 Work Plans\FAP\Figures\Figure 1.1 Site Location.pdf 07/12/2013 12:44 PM brian.peters



NYSDEC
Saranac Lake Gas Co., Inc.
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Site Location Map
Project 3612132271 Figure 1.1