

Saranac Lake, NY Ongoing Cleanup Activities

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues remediation work at the Former Saranac Lake Gas Company, Inc. site, located at 24 Payeville Lane in the Village of Saranac Lake. Our top priority continues to be the safety of the surrounding community.

WHO TO CONTACT:

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please direct these to the following contacts:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE:

State Superfund Program
DEC Saranac Lake Website (Site #516008):
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114312.html>

Saranac Lake - Progress to Date

Remedial construction activities began in April 2021 at the Saranac Lake Gas Company, Inc. site (site) to address soil and groundwater that is impacted with contamination associated with a former manufactured gas plant (MGP).

Contaminants include coal tar and elevated levels of MGP wastes, including polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX compounds) which have been detected above NYS standards, criteria, and guidance (SCG) levels in soil and groundwater.



Area Where ISS is Complete with First Layer of Re-Usable Soil Compacted.

The primary remedy, in-situ (i.e., in-place) solidification (ISS), involves mixing the contaminated soil with a binding agent (Portland cement) to bind the waste into a solid block of material and trap the contamination in place, to prevent migration with groundwater. Progress to date is summarized below:

- Approximately 28,000 cubic yards of impacted soil has been treated via ISS. At the completion of the project, approximately 37,000 cubic yards of soil will be treated.
- Approximately 1,100 cubic yards of demolition debris, including a former on-site building, tank holders, and concrete slabs and foundations have been removed and transported off-site for disposal.



Completed ISS Columns Prior to Curing.



Excavating Demolition Debris Including Wooden Piles Located Beneath an 80-foot Diameter Concrete Foundation.



Loading Impacted Soil for Off-site Disposal.

- Approximately 5,300 cubic yards of impacted soil not suitable for solidification has been transported off-site for disposal. At the completion of the project, approximately 7,200 cubic yards of impacted soil will be transported off-site for disposal, which will include impacted soil off-site, located just outside the site boundary, as well as a limited area of impacted soil adjacent to Brandy Brook.



Trees Located on the Northern End of the Property will be Replaced as Part of Final Restoration.

- Re-usable soil from on-site that meets state cleanup standards is being placed and compacted over completed ISS areas as the first layer of the soil cover. This will protect the solidified soil from freeze-thaw conditions.

- Trees located adjacent to Brandy Brook that were removed to accommodate the cleanup were tagged and surveyed prior to removal so that this area can be restored to previous conditions.

Remediation construction activities continue to stay on schedule. It is anticipated that cleanup activities (treatment and off-site disposal of impacted material) will be complete by December 2021, with final restoration activities extended into spring 2022.

Community Air Monitoring Program

Since the start of the remedial action, an air monitoring program has been in place. The air monitoring program includes perimeter air monitoring which is being conducted 24 hours per day to ensure that dust and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are not migrating from the site at levels that would cause health concerns.

To date, levels of VOCs at the site perimeter have not reached concentrations that would result in adverse health impacts, although nuisance odors may be evident off-site from time to time.



Spraying Foam on Exposed Areas that have been prepared for ISS.

To address odors, DEC required the application of foam and other odor suppressants to exposed soil. Also, all soil stockpiles are covered with plastic covers, trucks leaving the site are covered, the size of open excavation areas is being limited, and odor-neutralizing misters have been placed around the site.

Site History

The former manufactured gas plant operated from the late 1800s to about the 1940s and provided gas for local businesses and private homes. The process of making gas produced unwanted byproducts, which, much like many MGPs at the time, resulted in site contamination.

Recently the Adirondack Explorer published a news article on the site that provides some additional site history. The article can be found here:

<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/gas-plant-cleanup>



Building from The Historic Gas Plant in Early 1900s.

DEC began investigations at the Saranac Lake Gas Company Site in 2013 and conducted the first phases of cleanup in 2018. Initial phases of remediation included removal of impacted sediments in Pontiac Bay and both sediments and soil along Brandy Brook. Cleanup of the former MGP property is the final action planned.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. DEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites email listservs at:

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 and announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Project documents are made available at the
Saranac Lake Free Library
100 Main Street
Saranac Lake, 12983
(518) 891-4190

However, repositories may be temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions.

If you cannot access the online repository, please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed on the front page for assistance.

Key project documents are available on the
NYSDEC Saranac Lake Website at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114312.html>

or through the DECinfo Locator at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/516008/>