

## Former Saranac Lake Gas Company Saranac Lake, NY Ongoing Cleanup Activities

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is nearing the completion of remediation work at the Former Saranac Lake Gas Company, Inc. site, located at 24 Payeville Lane in the Village of Saranac Lake. Work is expected to be complete in December, with final restoration activities scheduled for Spring 2022.

### Saranac Lake - Progress To Date

Remedial construction activities began in April 2021 at the Saranac Lake Gas Company, Inc. 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 State standards, criteria, and guidance (SCG) levels in soil and groundwater.

The primary remedy, in-situ (i.e., in-place) solidification (ISS), involved mixing the impacted soil with a binding agent (Portland Cement and Bentonite) to bind the waste into a solid block of material and trap the contamination in place to prevent migration with groundwater. Outside of the ISS area, two areas were excavated. In summary:

ISS was completed on October 25, 2021. Approximately 39,000 cubic yards of impacted soil were treated via ISS.

- Approximately 3,000 tons of demolition debris, including a former above-ground building, tank holders, concrete slabs, foundations and other miscellaneous debris were removed and transported off-site for disposal.
- Approximately 11,000 tons of impacted soil not suitable for solidification or re-use on-site have been transported off-site for disposal.
- Two areas outside of the ISS were excavated and backfilled with clean imported soil.



*Backfilling an excavation on the southeast side of the site*



*ISS Crane in Background, graded fill in foreground.*

Excavated areas required installation and removal of sheet piles for excavation support.

- Excavated, re-usable soil and imported soil was placed and compacted over completed ISS areas to protect the solidified soil from winter freeze-thaw conditions.
- The covered area will be monitored at least twice per month throughout the winter, and final restoration will take place in spring 2022.



*Soil and placement of demarcation fabric to construct the cover over the ISS Area.*



*Removing sheet piles from excavation adjacent to Brandy Brook.*

## Community Air Monitoring Program

Throughout the construction project, air monitoring was conducted 24 hours per day to ensure that dust and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were not migrating from the site at levels that would cause health concerns to the community.

The air monitoring program discontinued on December 8, 2021, once the remaining impacted soil was transported off-site for disposal and ISS areas were covered with imported fill.

Nuisance odors were evident off-site periodically during construction even with the use of foam and odor neutralizers. However, VOCs at the perimeter of the site did not reach concentrations that would result in adverse health impacts at any time during the construction activities.



*Checking the perimeter air monitoring system.*



## Next Steps Spring 2022

DEC's contractors will return to the site in the Spring of 2022 for final restoration activities which will include placing topsoil, seeding, planting trees, replacing the temporary construction fence with a permanent fence, and installation of monitoring wells.



*Compaction testing of reusable soil*

## 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](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 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  
the  
NYSDEC Former Saranac Lake Gas Co.  
website at:

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

or through the DECinfo Locator at:

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

## WHO TO CONTACT:

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

**Paul Gazzo**

Mactec Construction Inspector  
(404) 449-0780  
[paul.gazzo@woodplc.com](mailto:paul.gazzo@woodplc.com)

**Brianna Scharf**

NYSDEC Central Office, Project Manager  
(518) 402-5987, [Brianna.scharf@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Brianna.scharf@dec.ny.gov)

**Wendy S. Kuehner**

NYS Department of Health, Project Manager

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SIT

State Superfund Program

DEC Saranac Lake Website (Site #516008):

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