

New York State  
Department of



Environmental  
Conservation

**Dear Interested Citizen:**

This Fact Sheet provides a summary of a remedial activity to be undertaken at the former Saratoga Lake Avenue Manufactured Gas Plant site. For additional information about site activities please contact the individuals identified below:

**Project Related Issues:**

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Former Saratoga  
Lake Ave  
Manufactured Gas Plant  
Saratoga County  
Site No. V00475

June 2009

**NYSDEC Announces Remedial Action Plan for  
former MGP site; Plan to be Discussed at Public  
Meeting on July 13, 2009**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is soliciting public comment on a Decision Document (DD) for the former Saratoga (Lake Avenue) Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site. The DD is based on an evaluation of remedial alternatives in a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) conducted by National Grid under the NYSDEC's oversight. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) also reviewed the DD to ensure that it met their standards for protection of human health and the environment. The DD and RAWP, along with other relevant project documents, are available for public review at the repositories identified on page two of this notice.

The DD calls for the removal of approximately 1,500 cubic yards of soil and approximately 45,000 gallons of water impacted with MGP-related source material located within the former gas holder foundation. The excavation area is located at the southern area of the site along Short Alley. The gas holder bottom is approximately 20 feet below the ground surface and based on previous investigations conducted at the site, the contamination has been contained by the holder foundation.

**Site Location and History:**

The 1.0 acre former Saratoga Lake Avenue MGP site is located at 60 Lake Avenue (the intersection of Lake Avenue and Hodgeman Street), in the City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County. The site is owned by the City and is used as a full-time fire department facility, designated as the Central Fire Station. The attached figure shows the site location. The parcel is currently zoned for Urban Residential use, allowing for residential use and development. The surrounding area consists of commercial properties to the north and west, and residential use to the south and east.

The MGP operated on the site from 1853 until 1875. The plant used coal to create a gas which was piped into the surrounding community where it was used for lighting, heating and cooking similar to how natural gas is used today. The gas manufacturing process produced a dark, oily liquid waste known as coal tar, which is now contained within the gas holder. The gas plant consisted of the former gas house along Lake Avenue, and a single gas storage holder along the southern side of the site.

**Previous Investigations:**

The MGP-impacted soils were identified during four phases of environmental investigations conducted by National Grid in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2008. The investigations determined that the soil located within the former gas holder exceeded NYSDEC soil cleanup objectives, therefore



**Additional Information:**

For additional information regarding health and exposure issues, please visit the NYSDOH website at: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/about/exposure.htm>

For information on the NYDEC Manufactured Gas Plant Remediation program: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>

**Document Repositories:**

The Remedial Action Work Plan and the Final SC Report for the Saratoga (Lake Ave) site are available for review at the document repositories identified below:

**Saratoga Springs Library**  
49 Henry Street  
Saratoga, NY 12866

**NYSDEC Central Office**  
11th Floor  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
Contact: Mr. Scott Deyette  
(518) 402-9662  
Hours: M-F; 9-5  
(by appointment)

requiring remediation. It should be noted that no groundwater contamination was found during the investigations. The Final Site Characterization report was approved by the NYSDEC in June of 2007 and the Remedial Investigation Report in June of 2009.

**Remedial Alternatives Summary:**

The Remedial Action Work Plan evaluated four remedial alternatives for the site.

The remedial alternatives evaluated are:

1. *No Action (an evaluation required by regulation).*
2. *Excavation of MGP-related Source Materials.*
3. *Excavation of MGP-Source Material and Adjacent MGP-Impacted Materials.*
4. *Unrestricted Land Use Excavation.*

Alternative 2 is the recommended remedy for the site. Alternative 2 is protective of human health and the environment, meets the remedial action objectives for the site, as well as the property owner's restrictions on access and schedule duration.

**Next Steps:**

Starting with the release of the DD, a 30-day comment period will begin and will run through July 31, 2009, during which time the public can provide comments about the recommended Remedial Action Plan by letter, e-mail or telephone. Comments will also be accepted at the public meeting. The NYSDEC will consider the comments received before finalizing the Remedial Action in the Decision Document by the end of July 2009. After the issuance of the Decision Document, National Grid will develop the technical specifications and bid documents to support the Remedial Action Work Plan. The selected contractor will provide a Construction Operations Plan to NYSDEC for the soil excavation after the procurement process is completed.

**Public Meeting:**

A Public Meeting to present the recommended remedial alternative will be held on July 13, 2009 from 6 to 9 PM at the Saratoga Springs Public Library, Dutcher Community Room, 49 Henry Street in Saratoga Springs.

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