



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION

**Dear Interested Citizen:**

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

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# FACT SHEET

National Grid Glens Falls Former MGP Site

December 2007

Site No. 5-57-016 Operable Unit 1 (OU1)

## Notice of Upcoming Work at the Glens Falls Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

### Removal of Tar Separator Contents

Beginning in December, National Grid, with the oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), National Grid will be removing tar and other contaminated materials from the former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site located at 14 Mohican Street in the City of Glens Falls.

The contaminated material is located within a piece of equipment known as a subsurface tar separator in the southwestern portion of a vacant service building. This tar separator contains source material, including heavily contaminated soils and liquid petroleum waste product. National Grid will remove the contents of this tar separator and treat and/or dispose of the material at an off-site facility. The tar separator equipment and the vacant service building will be removed at a later date.

The work will be conducted in accordance with the NYSDEC-approved Proposed Tar Separator Contents Removal Action Work Plan (Work Plan). The Work Plan includes a health and safety plan and a community air monitoring plan for the protection of workers and public health during the work at the site.



*National Grid's former manufactured gas plant property is located at 14 Mohican Street in the City of Glens Falls, on the eastern side of Mohican Street, bordering the Glens Falls Feeder Canal which is adjacent to the Hudson River. This location is immediately upstream of the State Route 9 Bridge*

## **Additional Work in the Feeder Canal**

The NYSDEC will also oversee National Grid construction work within the Glens Falls Feeder Canal. The work will be performed along the National Grid property. This work will address the sheens that form on the water surface of the canal. A temporary cap will be placed over the contaminated sediments in the canal where the sheens originate. This work will cover any source material that may have been creating the sheens. The cap is made of a clay material and will be covered with a layer of crushed stone. This cap was designed to allow water to move freely in the canal so recreational canoeing along the canal will not be impaired. The cap will remain in place until the contaminated sediments are removed by National Grid at a future date.

### ***SITE HISTORY***

The former manufactured gas plant site consists of 3 parcels of land totaling 6 acres. National Grid owns the southern and northern parcels of the site: which surround a smaller parcel owned by the City of Glens Falls. The site is flat with a slight slope to the east-southeast toward the adjacent Glens Falls Feeder Canal; the Towpath lies beyond the feeder canal and the Hudson River is beyond the Towpath.

The site is fenced and primarily covered with a gravel/asphalt surface. The Henry Street Electric Substation (constructed in 1959) and one vacant building (constructed in 1931) are located on the northern parcel. The western portion of the northern parcel is used as a parking area for Glens Falls Hospital personnel; while the remainder of the northern parcel and the southern parcel are used for equipment and material storage and parking. A City of Glens Falls Sanitary Pump Station is located on the city-owned parcel.

Manufactured gas operations at the property began in 1854. The plant used coal and petroleum to manufacture gas for heating and lighting local homes and businesses. Manufactured gas operations continued on the site until the early 1950s at which time the structures used in the manufactured gas operations were removed. No structures related to the manufactured gas operations remain above ground, but the remains of several structures (including the former gas holders that stored the gas and a tar separator) exist below ground.

### ***SITE RELATED CONTAMINATION***

A remedial investigation was completed at the former manufactured gas plant site by National Grid. A plan for clean up of the historic plant site and the Glens Falls Feeder Canal – called Operable Unit 1 or OU-1 – was selected in 2003. An operable unit represents a portion of the overall site which can be addressed separately from other areas of the site.

This investigation found that the primary source of site impacts at this site is coal tar - an oily, brownish to black liquid with an odor similar to driveway sealer. Coal tar contains chemicals including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX). Coal tar was detected in certain areas of the site (discussed below), and is the likely origin of impacts to soils and groundwater at the site. The majority of the coal tar is present in the central portion of the northern parcel, in the vicinity of former manufactured gas plant structures.

The remedy for the site is outlined in a document called a Record of Decision (ROD), which was issued on March 31, 2003. The ROD summarizes:

- The site investigations;
- The various options proposed for clean up (remediation) of the site that were reviewed by the State, and
- The comments received from the public about the proposed remedial action plan (PRAP).

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan was presented to the public in a meeting held at the Crandall Public Library on February 19, 2003. The selected remedy includes, in part, excavation, removal and proper disposal of source area soils and contaminated below ground plant structures which remain on-site. Note: Source area soils include soils that are heavily contaminated and/or contain liquid petroleum products referred to as non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL).

A copy of the Record of Decision and the supporting documents (the Remedial Investigation Report, the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report and the Final Feasibility Study) are available for public review at the document repositories listed below.

***NEXT STEPS TOWARD CLEANUP***

Since 2003 National Grid has been conducting additional testing and studies as it designs a detailed remedial plan for the site. National Grid, as part of this effort, has conducted an 18-month onsite pilot study of a groundwater treatment trench near the most heavily contaminated portion of the Feeder Canal. This pilot study is now complete and National Grid will incorporate the results into the design. In the meantime, National Grid will remove the contents of the tar separator as described on the first page.

***DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES***

Public understanding and involvement are crucial to the success of our remedial program. To keep you updated, we will distribute fact sheets like this one. Copies of the supporting technical documents and correspondence are available for public review at:

Crandall Public Library  
251 Glen Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
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