



Community

FACT SHEET

Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid Company, Utica, New York

April 2004

If you would like more information about Niagara Mohawk's remedial program at the Harbor Point property, please contact these project representatives:

Terry Young, P.E.
Niagara Mohawk, a National
Grid Company
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: 315-428-6614

Lech Dolata
NYS Department of
Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7010
Phone: 518-402-9669

For site-related health issues,
contact:

Maureen Schuck
NYS Department of Health
Division of Environmental
Exposure Investigations
Bureau of Environmental
Exposure Investigation
Room 300
Flanigan Square, 547 River
Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
Phone: 518-402-7860

Details of the site cleanup are
available at the document
repositories listed below:

Document Repositories

NYS Department of
Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7010
Phone: 518-402-9662

Harbor Point Site
Hotline: 315-798-5122

Niagara Mohawk to Continue Clean Up Of Harbor Point Property

Niagara Mohawk is beginning to rehabilitate the storm sewer lines along Lee Street and Washington Street to the Utica Harbor as part of the Operable Unit 3 cleanup. Impacted sediments are being removed from the storm sewer and the storm lines and manholes will be lined to prevent future infiltration of impacted groundwater and discharge to the Utica Harbor. Old storm sewer outfalls along the Utica Harbor and Mohawk River will also be abandoned. A new section of sanitary sewer will be installed from the Harbor Point site entrance to the existing sewer system on Lee Street. This phase of work will be conducted in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This phase of the remedial construction activities began in March 2004 and will be completed by summer 2004.

What is an MGP?

An MGP was an industrial facility at which gas was produced from coal. MGPs were sometimes referred to as "gasworks" or "town gas." From each plant, a network of underground pipes brought the gas into homes and businesses where it was used for lighting, cooking, and heating - the same purposes that natural gas is used for today. The first MGPs were constructed in the early 1800s, and by the mid to late 1800s production had greatly increased. Most New York State MGPs closed by 1950, with the last MGP in the state shutting down its operations in 1972.

Cleanup Goals

The following are among the cleanup goals identified in the Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision:

- Address the exposure of fish and wildlife to the levels of contaminants in sediments above guidance values and to provide an appropriate habitat for benthic life in the harbor.
- Address human exposures to contaminated soils in the dredge spoil areas (DSAs) and impacts to groundwater resulting from contamination present in the spoils.
- Prevent ingestion of groundwater affected by the site that does not attain NYSDEC Class GA Ambient Water Quality Criteria.
- Address the threat to the environment posed by the presence of contaminants within the regulatory floodway.

Key Elements of the Cleanup Program

The cleanup is anticipated to include the following key elements:

- Consolidation and containment of MGP material on the Water Gas Plant portion of the site.
- Former Water Gas Plant portion of site containment to include a fully encircling barrier wall with an engineered cap and groundwater collection and treatment.
- Excavation and thermal treatment of concentrated MGP material at the site, and/or treating and properly disposing of impacted materials offsite.
- Capping of residual MGP material at the site with a minimum of 2-feet of clean soil.
- Treatment in place of groundwater prior to it discharging to the Utica Harbor, Barge Canal and Mohawk River; and
- Dredging of Utica Harbor, Barge Canal and Mohawk River to return it to navigational depths and capping a portion of the inner harbor.

Community Health and Safety

The cleanup activities will be performed according to specific health and safety standards. Safeguards will be in place to protect construction workers and the community. Measures to monitor and limit air emissions will be implemented as well. Additionally, erosion-control practices will be used to protect surrounding lands and waters. Site access restrictions will serve as additional protection during cleanup activities.

What's Next?

This phase of construction is anticipated to be completed in early summer 2004.