

**(Fact Sheet Begins Next)**

## **Act Now to Continue Receiving Information About This Site!**

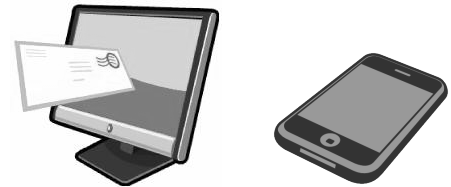
DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation (DER) now distributes information about contaminated sites electronically by email.

If you would like to continue to receive information about the contaminated site featured in this fact sheet:

**You must sign up for the DER email listserv:**

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

DER cannot register your email address - only the email address owner can do so. If you already have signed up for the listserv for the county in which the site is located, you need do nothing.



### **Why You Should Go “Paperless”:**

- Get site information faster and share it easily;
- Receive information about all sites in a chosen county - read what you want, delete the rest;
- It helps the environment and stretches your tax dollars.

**If “paperless” is not an option for you**, call or write to the DER project manager identified in this fact sheet. Indicate that you need to receive paper copies of fact sheets through the Postal Service. Include the site name in your correspondence. The option to receive paper is available to individuals only. Groups, organizations, businesses, and government entities are assumed to have email access.



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DEC info Locator and at these location(s):

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/712005/>

*(\*Repositories may be temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions. If you cannot access the online repository, please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed below for assistance)*

### Cortland Free Library\*

32 Church Street  
Cortland, NY 13201  
(607) 753-1042

### Who to Contact

Comments and questions are welcome and should be directed as follows:

#### Project-Related Questions

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625 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233  
(518) 402-9662  
[Justin.Starr@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Justin.Starr@dec.ny.gov)

#### Project-Related Health Questions

Dan Tucholski  
NYSDOH  
ESP Corning Tower, RM 1787  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 402-7860  
[beci@health.ny.gov](mailto:beci@health.ny.gov)

For more information about New York's  
Manufactured Gas Plant Program, visit:

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html)

# FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

NYSEG - Cortland-Homer MGP  
218 South Main Street  
Homer, NY 13077

SITE No. 7-12-005

NYSDEC REGION 7

February 2021

## Cleanup Action to Begin in Sediments Contaminated by Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the New York State Electric & Gas Company (NYSEG) Cortland Homer Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site ("site"), Operable Unit No. 2 (OU-2), located at 218 South Main Street, Homer, Cortland County under New York's Manufactured Gas Plant Program. Please see the map below for the site location (Figure 1).

The April 2020 Remedial Design Report has been reviewed and approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) under New York's Manufactured Gas Plant Remedial Program. The cleanup activities will be performed by NYSEG ("remedial party") with oversight provided by NYSDEC.

Remedial activities will occur to address coal tar impacted sediments in the West Branch of the Tioughnioga River in two separate areas. Remedial activities for Area 1 (located near 221 South Main Street) are expected to begin in March 2021 and last approximately 9 months. Remedial activities for Area 2 (located near 40 Front Street) are expected to begin in December 2021 and last approximately 12 months. During remedial activities, the river in these areas will be inaccessible and marked by upstream warning buoys. The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$15,800,000.

**Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities:** The goal of the site cleanup action is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the remedy are:

- Installing (and removing) temporary water bypass systems to isolate and dewater targeted sections of the river to facilitate sediment excavation and backfilling.
- Excavating approximately 6,000 cubic-yards of tar-impacted sediments from the river, at depths ranging from 1 to 5 feet below sediment surface (bss) at Area 1 (see Figure 2).
- Excavating approximately 5,600 cubic-yards of tar-impacted sediments from the river, at depths ranging from 2 to 7 feet bss at Area 2 (see Figure 2).
- Dewatering, stabilizing, and transporting excavated sediment off-site for low-temperature thermal desorption treatment and/or disposal as non-hazardous solid waste.
- Restoring the disturbed riverbed by backfilling sediment removal areas with clean imported fill material meeting the Class A Sediment Guidance Values.
- Restoring the disturbed riverbanks and adjoining upland areas with appropriate growing media for vegetation (i.e., topsoil), and installing vegetative species (including wetland vegetation, trees, shrubs, and seed mixes) based on previously existing habitat types.

# MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

- Updating the existing Site Management Plan that describes the post-remedial action monitoring that will be completed to assess effectiveness of the previously completed remedial activities, as necessary.
- Implementing a site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) during remediation activities. The HASP and CAMP establish procedures to protect on-site workers and residents and includes required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

**Next Steps:** After cleanup activities are completed, NYSEG will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER). The FER will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the cleanup of the site.

**Site Description:** The site is located in the Village of Homer, Cortland County, New York, just north of the City of Cortland (see Figure 1) and consists of two operable units (OUs). OU-1 encompasses the former MGP plant west of US Route 11, which has been previously remediated. OU-2 is the focus of this fact sheet and includes a portion of the MGP property east of US Route 11 and includes MGP-impacted sediments in the West Branch of the Tioughnioga River. The former MGP operated from 1858 to 1932 and the site was redeveloped in 1944 for heavy-duty truck manufacturing.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 712005) at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

**Summary of the Investigation:** The primary contaminants of concern were polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are commonly associated with coal tar. Investigation of groundwater and soils (in OU-1) conducted at the site showed elevated concentrations of PAH contaminants site-wide; sediment investigations (in OU-2) also showed elevated concentrations of PAHs in sediments of the West Branch of the Tioughnioga River.

**MGP Program Overview:** New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. Sites where contamination has been released to the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

The gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network. The gas was used for heating and cooking much like natural gas is used today. In the early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights. A dense, oily liquid known as coal tar would condense out of the gas at various stages during its production, purification and distribution, and be discharged to the subsurface.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the MGPs, visit:  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>

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*We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.*

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### Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>

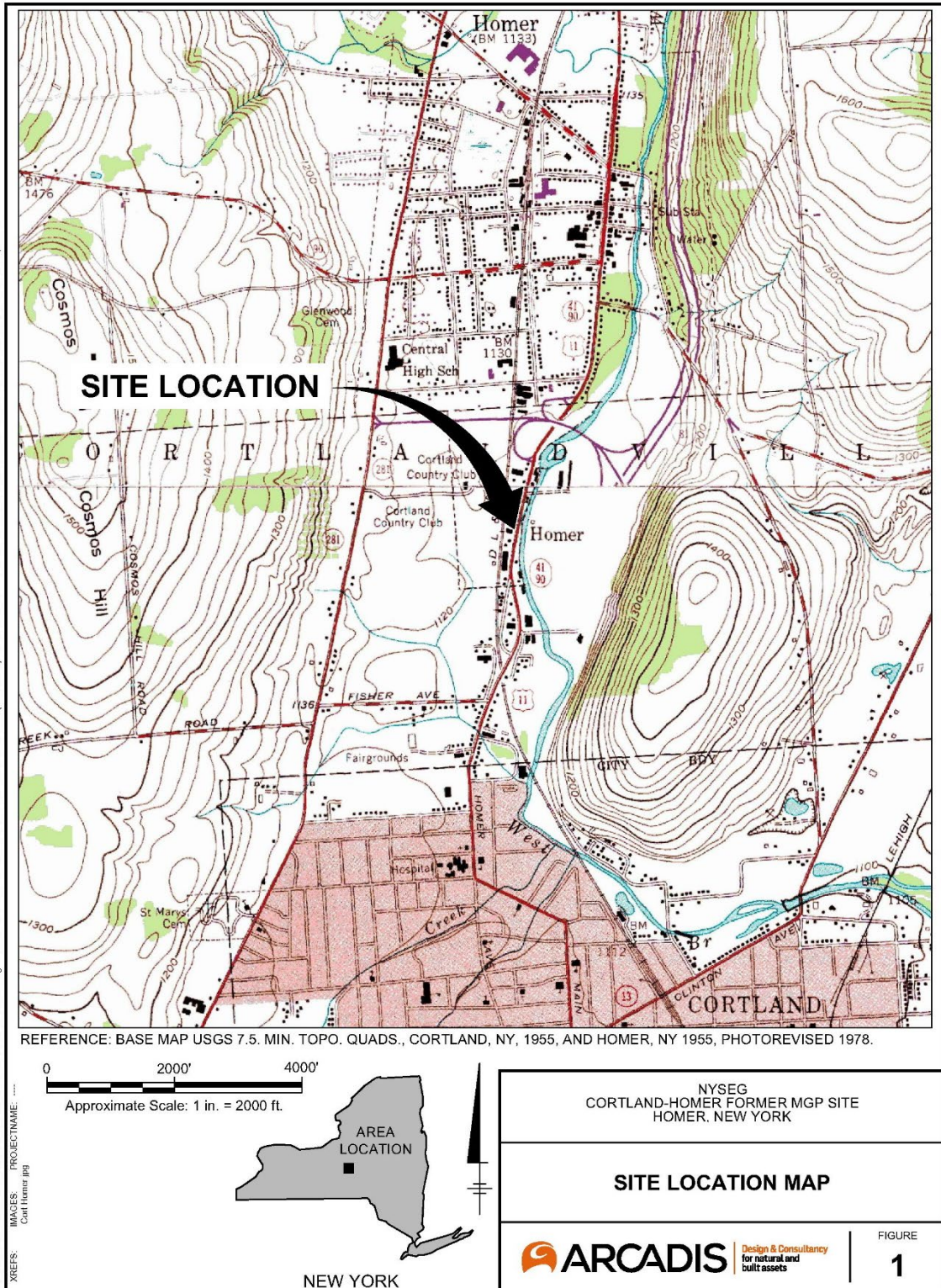
Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

### DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

# MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

Figure 1 - Site Location Map



# MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

Figure 2 - Sediment Removal Area Map

