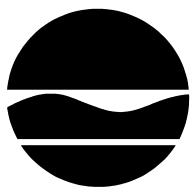


NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

**Document
Repositories**

Additional information about the site can be found in the following document repositories:

Cortland Free Library
32 Church Street
Cortland, NY 13045

Mon-Thurs 9:30 am- 8:00 pm
Friday 9:30am - 5:30pm
Saturday 9:30am - 4:30pm

NYSDEC Region 7
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400
Contact: Diane Carlton
Phone: (315) 426-7403
Mon. -Fri. 8:30am -4:30pm

NYSDEC
Division of Environmental
Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7014
Phone: 866-520-2334
by appointment

FACT SHEET

April 2008

CHARLES STREET
REMOTE HOLDER
SITE No. 7-12-012
Charles Street,
Cortland, NY 13077

Charles Street Remote Holder

Remedial Investigations to Start at Former Manufactured Gas Holding Tank

Project Update

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has approved additional investigations at the Charles Street Remote Holder (former Manufactured Gas holding tank) located in the City of Cortland. These investigation plans were developed by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG). This Fact Sheet is providing a project update to announce the start of additional investigations. NYSEG is working cooperatively under an Order on Consent with NYSDEC to investigate the site. The investigations should start in May 2008 and will take approximately three days to complete.

Site History

In 1858 the Homer & Cortland Gas Light Company began operating a manufactured gas plant (MGP) at 216 South Main Street, in the Village of Homer, New York just north of the city of Cortland. The plant made combustible gas from coal and operated from approximately 1858 until 1935. The gas was provided to homes, businesses and industries in much the same way natural gas is distributed today.

In 1867 the Homer & Cortland Gas Light Company acquired property on Charles Street to construct a 22,000 cubic foot gas holder as part of the distribution network. This gas storage tank was called a remote holder. Gas was not manufactured at this location. Sometime between 1915 and 1926 the gas holder was dismantled, and the residences currently located at 43 and 45 Charles Street were constructed.

Additional information on Manufactured Gas Plants can be found at NYSDEC's web site:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>

Preliminary Site Assessment

This site was the subject of several environmental investigations beginning in November 2005 and continuing into 2007. The purpose of these investigations was to determine if remnants of the former gas holder remain on site and to define the nature and extent of any contamination resulting from the operation of the former gas holder. The combined investigations included a geophysical survey, test trench excavation, soil borings, monitoring well installation and sampling, soil vapor/indoor air sampling, and a site survey. The soil investigations found that a thin layer of stained silt was observed in the soil borings at depths ranging from 9.5 to 12 feet below ground surface. Based on historic maps, these borings are presumed to be in the footprint of the former gas holder tank. In addition, five foundation stones in the basement of one of the homes were identified as discolored and sampled at the request of the homeowner. The hardened surface coating was scraped from these stones and analyzed. The results indicate that the coating contains a coal tar material. This may have been applied as a waterproofing compound, or may be present because the foundation stones were re-used from the remote holder structure. Soil vapor and indoor air samples taken from the two properties indicated that soil vapor was not adversely affecting indoor air quality in the homes. The Preliminary Site Assessment Report detailing this work can be found in the document repositories listed on the front page of this fact sheet.

Additional Investigations

NYSDEC has approved a work plan prepared by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) outlining additional investigations at the Cortland Remote Holder Site. These activities include collecting soil samples at different depths and analyzing them for variety of chemicals. The soil samples will be collected from seventeen locations across the two properties and are shown on the attached figure. The data obtained will be used to determine nature and extent of MGP byproducts in soils and potential remedial alternatives.

Upon completion of the analytical work a report summarizing the data and information will be prepared and submitted by NYSEG.

Site Related Health Assessment

Exposure to groundwater is not expected because the area is served by public water. Exposure to contaminated soils is unlikely, as contaminated soils are not at the surface. Contaminated soils beneath the ground surface have the potential to be brought to the surface during any future ground intrusive activities on these two properties. The NYSDOH and NYSDEC evaluated the potential for exposures related to soil vapor intrusion in the two residences over the site and determined that no actions currently need to be taken to address this exposure pathway.

Next Steps

After the investigations NYSEG will develop a report which summarizes the data and information and submit this for NYSDEC approval. This work should complete the remedial investigation. NYSEG, with NYSDEC and NYSDOH oversight, will then evaluate what remediation, if any, is necessary for the site.

For More Information: Call or write the following staff for more information about:

Technical Information:

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Citizen Participation:

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 NYSDEC Region 7
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 Phone: (315) 426-7403

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NYSEG - CORTLAND
 PROPOSED SOIL BORING & SURFACE SOIL SAMPLING LOCATIONS

FIGURE 2

