



FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

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Cortland Remote Holder Site
Site #712012
43 - 45 Charles Street
City of Cortland, NY

Cleanup Action to Begin at Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the Cortland Remote Holder Site located at 43-45 Church Street in the City of Cortland, Cortland County. New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG), the site owner, has agreed to remediate the site to a level that is protective of public health and the environment under the New York State Superfund Program. See map for site location.

The cleanup action for the site includes excavating the top two feet of soil across the site and replacing that soil with clean imported topsoil that meets the requirements for restricted residential use. The site will then be seeded and mulched. The cleanup activities will be performed by NYSEG (the “responsible party”) with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities

The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment.

Standard excavating equipment will be used to dig the top two feet of soil from the site and load it into dump trucks for transportation to a landfill permitted to accept the material. The excavation will require the removal of the existing sidewalk and curb, a one-foot wide section of street pavement adjacent to the curb, and four large trees located in the tree lawn area. Clean topsoil meeting NYSDEC’s requirements for restricted residential use will replace the excavated soil. The site will then be seeded and mulched, sidewalks and curb will be replaced, and four new trees will be planted in the tree lawn area. During the project, which is expected to last less than two weeks, no parking will be allowed on Charles Street in the vicinity of the site. Flaggers will be present to control traffic as trucks enter and leave the site, and to assure that parents can safely drop off and pick up their children from the school across from the site. Also, a Community Air Monitoring Plan will be implemented to ensure that any dust generated from the excavation does not migrate into the community.

About the Manufactured Gas Plant Program:

NYSDEC has one of the most aggressive Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Programs site investigation and remediation programs in the country. Since the problems associated with the former MGP sites were identified, NYSDEC has been working with all the utilities on a state-wide basis to identify and address the issue of MGP sites for which they may have responsibility. This effort has resulted in approximately 253 sites identified for action by the eight utilities operating in New York State.

Currently we have multi-site orders or agreements with six utilities, including NYSEG, and several other individual site volunteers, to address 222 MGP sites in NYS. Multi-site agreements are under negotiation with a seventh utility and several other responsible parties which have newly-identified sites.

NYSDEC continues to seek to identify any other possible MGP sites throughout the State.

For more information about the NYSDEC's MGP program, visit:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html

Next Steps

NYSEG with NYSDEC oversight is expected to begin cleanup activities at the site on or about December 9, 2010. These activities are anticipated to take about two weeks.

After it completes the cleanup activities, NYSEG will prepare a Final Engineering Report. The Final Engineering Report will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

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

Background

In 1858 the Homer & Cortland Gas Light Company constructed and operated 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 used today. In 1867 the Homer & Cortland Gas Light Company acquired property at the Charles Street location to construct a 22,000 cubic foot gas holder as part of its gas distribution network. The former tank was called a remote gas holder. Sometime between 1915 and 1926 the former remote gas holder was removed, and houses were constructed at 43 and 45 Charles Street. In 2007 NYSEG acquired the 43 and 45 Charles Street properties from the previous owners. The extent of MGP impacts was delineated by a series of investigations conducted by NYSEG. MGP impacts were found primarily in the subsurface soil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION**Where to Find Information**

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the decision document describing the selected remedy for the site, called the "Record of Decision" and the Remedial Design Work Plan.

Cortland Free Library
32 Church Street
Cortland, NY 13045
607-357-1357
MTWTH 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM
Friday 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
By appointment; contact Mr. William Ports
518-402-9662

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Mr. William Ports, PE
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
866-520-2334
wfports@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Ms. Julia Kenney
New York State Department of Health
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
800-458-1158, ext. 27860

To Direct Questions to NYSEG, please contact:

Mr. Robert L. Pass
Manager – Regional Outreach & Development
NYSEG
1387 Dryden Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-347-2148

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox.

NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html . It's *quick*, it's *free*, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

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

