



FACT SHEET State Superfund Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: NM - Syracuse Erie Blvd. MGP
DEC Site #: 734060
Address: 300 Erie Blvd West
Syracuse, NY 13208-

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Tuesday, 3/10/2015 at 7:00 PM
NYSDEC Region 7 Office, 615 Erie Blvd. West, Syracuse, NY 13204
NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the NM - Syracuse Erie Blvd. MGP site ("site") located at 300 Erie Blvd West, Syracuse, Onondaga County. Please see the map for the site location.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from February 24, 2015 through March 26, 2015. The proposed plan is available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan

The remedy proposed for the site includes:

- installation of coal tar recovery wells in western site boundary for periodic recovery of coal tar in the subsurface soil;
• a site cover consisting of existing office complex, driveways, paved parking lots, concrete sidewalks, landscaping, and lawn currently exists and will be maintained to allow for commercial and industrial uses of the site;
• an environmental easement to restrict the use of the site to commercial and industrial use;
• development and implementation of a site management plan and
• long-term groundwater monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of natural attenuation of groundwater impact over an extended period of time.

Additional Details

The Erie Blvd. plant was operated by National Grid's predecessor companies from approximately 1849 to the 1930s. Gas was manufactured by heating coal. Freshly-manufactured gas had to be cooled and its impurities removed before it could be used. A coal tar resulted from these processes, some of which was released to the environment. The coal tar contains a number of chemical contaminants (similar to gasoline or fuel oil), primarily benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene (BTEX) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). The extent of MGP impacts was delineated by a series of investigations conducted by National Grid. MGP impacts were found primarily in soil and groundwater within the National Grid property. Most of the site is covered by the National Grid office complex structures, asphalt or vegetation and thus direct contact with MGP-related contaminants is not likely. The surrounding area is served by public water, so exposure to MGP-impacted groundwater is not likely.

Summary of the Investigation

A Remedial Investigation (RI) has been conducted. The purpose of the RI was to define the nature and extent of any contamination resulting from previous activities at the site. The field activities and findings of the investigation are described in the RI Report.

The following general activities are conducted during an RI:

- Research of historical information,
- Geophysical survey to determine the lateral extent of wastes,
- Test pits, soil borings, and monitoring well installations,
- Sampling of waste, surface and subsurface soils, groundwater, and soil vapor,
- Sampling of surface water and sediment,
- Ecological and Human Health Exposure Assessments.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "feasibility study" submitted under New York's State Superfund Program by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, dba National Grid.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments.

Background

Location: The NM-Erie Boulevard MGP Site is located in an urban area in the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County. The site is bounded by West Genesee Street to the north, North Franklin Street to the east and Erie Boulevard West to the south. The site is owned by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NM), doing business as National Grid.

Site Features: Onondaga Creek borders the site on the west. The seven acre former MGP site is within the 10 acre National Grid facility, consisting of five occupied office buildings. The remaining site area is covered with paved parking lots and roadways. Site access is restricted to the general public by perimeter fencing, locking gates, and an onsite security service.

Current Zoning/Use(s): The site is zoned for commercial use. The site is occupied by five buildings comprising the National Grid Syracuse Office Complex. The immediate surrounding area is zoned for commercial and central business use.

Past Use of the Site: The prior uses of the site include three mills (a salt mill, a saw mill, a linseed oil mill) and a tannery. The first manufactured gas plant (MGP) was constructed in 1849 and operated until the 1930s. During World War 1 (1917 to 1918) the plant produced toluol used for the manufacture of dynamite at another location.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Fill material is present below the asphalt pavement surface cover and ranges in thickness from 3 to 28 feet. The fill unit is underlain by a clay/silt layer. This unit is discontinuous and ranges in thickness from 2 to 22 feet. A sand and gravel unit is encountered beneath the clay/silt layer at depths ranging from 6 to 30 feet below ground surface (bgs). The water table is generally encountered at a depth of approximately 20 feet bgs at the site and flows from south to north. The site is adjacent to Onondaga Creek, which is a losing stream at this location, meaning that water flows from the creek into groundwater. Groundwater is naturally very saline, which renders it unsuitable for potable purposes.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=734060>

About the Manufactured Gas Plant Program:

NYSDEC has one of the most aggressive Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) 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 235 sites identified for action by the seven utilities operating in New York State. Currently, we have multi-site orders or agreements with six utilities, including National Grid, and several other individual site volunteers, to address 222 MGP sites in NYS. NYSDEC continues to seek to identify any other possible MGP sites throughout the State.

For more information about the MGP program, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Onondaga County Public Library
477 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13201
phone: 315-435-1900

NYSDEC
Attn: Diane Carlton
615 Erie Blvd. West
Syracuse, NY 13201
phone: 315-426-7403
(diane.carlton@dec.ny.gov)

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html>

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Anthony Karwiel
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
518-402-9816
anthony.karwiel@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Richard Jones
New York State Department of Health
Central NY Regional Office
217 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-477-8148
BEEI@health.ny.gov

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: <http://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.

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

