



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Where to Find Information

Access project documents online through the [DECinfo Locator/On-line repository](#) and at this location:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/738049/> and
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/V00481/>

Oswego Public Library
120 E 2nd St
Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 341-5867

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

Who to Contact

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

Project-Related Questions

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NYSDEC
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(518) 402-9662
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Project-Related Health Questions

Anthony Perretta
NYSDOH
Bureau of Env. Exposure Inv.
ESP Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
bee@health.ny.gov

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

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html

FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

NM Oswego W. Utica St. MGP
Oswego, NY 13126

JANUARY 2021

SITE No. 738049

NYSDEC REGION 7

Remedy Proposed for Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site; Public Comment Period Announced

The public is invited to comment on a proposed remedy being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the NM Oswego W. Utica St. MGP ("site") located at 27 West Utica Street, in the City of Oswego, Oswego County. The proposed remedy is specific to contamination that has migrated from the site. Please see Figure 1 below for the site location.

How to Comment: NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, which is recommended in the November 2020 "Feasibility Report, Oswego (West Utica Street) Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site – Operable Unit 2 (OU2)," for 30 days, from **January 14, 2021** through **February 12, 2021**.

- Access the Feasibility Study Report and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator/on-line repository: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/738049/> and <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/V00481/>
- Documents also are available at the locations identified at left under "Where to Find Information."
- Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

Operable Unit 1 (OU1), the location of the former gas plant, was cleaned up in 2020. The remediation consisted of the solidification or removal of approximately 8,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil, generally down to bedrock, located approximately 20 feet below surface; and the installation of a site cover consisting of pavement or a minimum of one foot of clean soil. Solidification reduces groundwater flow by the addition of Portland cement into the soil, which minimizes contaminant migration. However, prior to remediation, some of the contaminated groundwater made its way into the bedrock and migrated off-site, largely under West Utica Street to the south. This off-site migration (OU2) is the focus of the proposed remedy. See Figure 2 for locations of both OUs and completed (OU1) and proposed (OU2) remedies.

Feasibility Study Report: The recommended remedy for OU2 consists of:

- Installation of wells in the bedrock to allow for the observation, collection and disposal of tar in the groundwater; and
- Continued natural recovery* with monitoring, which includes:
 - Development of a monitoring plan for the continued sampling and analysis of groundwater; and
 - Development of a Site Management Plan that will include a provision for enhanced remediation should it be necessary based on long-term groundwater monitoring, and a provision for

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evaluation of the potential for soil vapor intrusion for any occupied buildings in the affected area.

* Natural recovery relies on natural processes, such as natural-occurring microorganisms, to decrease concentrations of contaminants in soil or groundwater. This type of remedy avoids disturbing the subsurface conditions by construction techniques such as soil excavation, groundwater extraction, or barrier wall installation. Natural recovery works best when the source of contamination has been removed or isolated, as is the case at this site. Natural recovery requires robust sampling to confirm a consistent decrease in contaminant concentrations over time.

A site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented 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: NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a Decision Document, that explains why the remedy was selected and responds to public comments. The New York State Department of Health must concur with the selected remedy. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed by National Grid.

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

Site Description: The former MGP site is located on the north side of West Utica Street between West 3rd Street and West 4th Street. The site is currently zoned for commercial use and is occupied by several small businesses including an auto repair shop, a medical office, and a dialysis clinic. Paved parking areas occupy the remainder of the flat, 1.2-acre site. Operable Unit 1 is the site. Operable Unit 2 is the off-site area impacted by MGP contamination.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 738049) at:

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

Summary of the Investigation: Environmental investigations of the Oswego West Utica Street MGP revealed

the presence of coal tar in the shallow subsurface of the southern area of the site. As noted above, this on-site area was remediated in 2020. Coal tar contains chemical contaminants including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene (BTEX), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. MGP impacts to shallow groundwater (less than 20 feet below ground surface) were found to be limited to the site. However, contaminants were found in bedrock groundwater (greater than 20 feet below ground surface) south of West Utica Street and west of 4th Street. The area is served by a municipal water supply from a water source unaffected by the site contamination.

Manufactured Gas Plant Program: New York's MGP program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former manufactured gas plants. The gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal 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 in much the same way that natural gas is used today. In early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and streetlights. The MGP on West Utica Street operated from the 1850s to the 1930s, by the Oswego Gas Light Company, a predecessor of National Grid.

For more information about the MGPs, visit:

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

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.

Stay Informed with DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

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: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

MGP PROGRAM



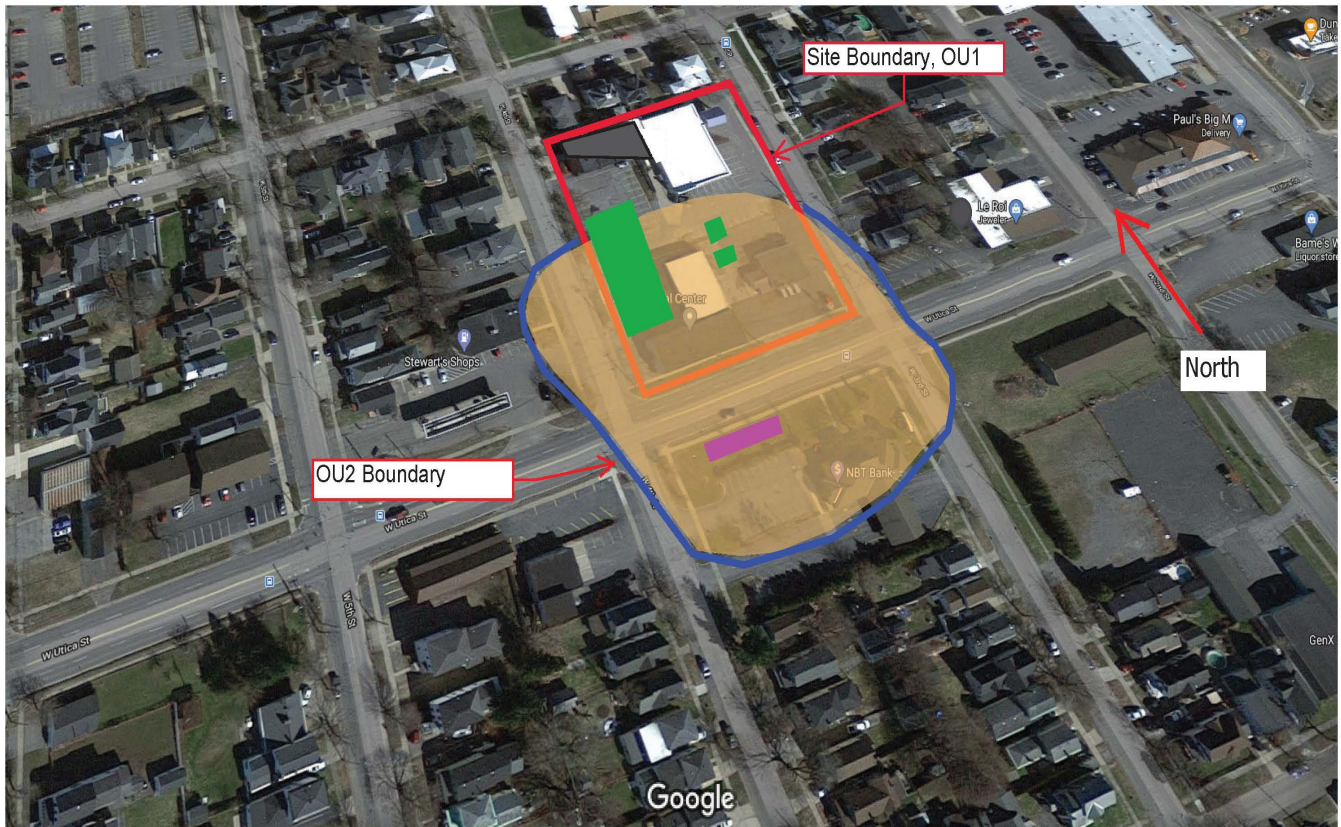
approx 300 ft

North



Figure 1 **Site Location**
Oswego (W. Utica St.) Former MGP Site
West Utica St. at West 3rd St.
City of Oswego NY

MGP PROGRAM



- Area of Proposed Recovery Wells
- Area of Shallow Bedrock Groundwater Impact
- Area of Solidification, Completed in 2020

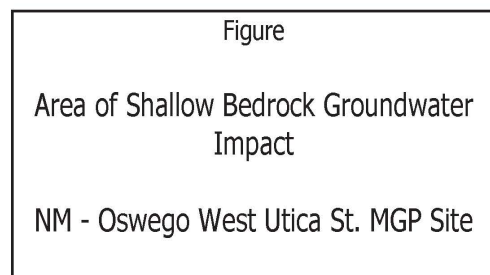


Figure 2 – Area of Shallow Bedrock Impact and Recovery Wells