



**PROPOSED Remedial
Action Plan Meeting:**

**Wednesday July 2, 2003
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**at the Women's Community
Building
100 West Seneca Street
Ithaca, NY**

The purpose of this meeting is to present the NYSDEC's Proposed Remedial Action Plan for the NYSEG Ithaca Court Street MGP Site and to solicit comments from the public. Comments will be accepted through **August 1, 2003**

FACT SHEET

Notice of the Availability of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan NYSEG Ithaca Court Street MGP Site OU-1 Former MGP Site and Structures

Public Meeting to be held July 2, 2003:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and NYSEG will hold a public meeting to present the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for the Ithaca Court Street MGP Site Operable Unit No. 1, Former MGP Site and Structures.

Comment Period:

The public is invited to submit comments on the proposed plan until **August 1, 2003**. In addition to any comments received at the public meeting, written comments may be submitted to William Ottaway, Project Manager, at the address shown at the end of this notice.

Background:

NYSEG's predecessor companies operated a Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) on this site by from 1853 to 1927. The MGP made a combustible gas which was sold to homes, businesses and industries. This gas was produced from coal until 1911. From 1911 through 1927, the plant produced gas from both coal and petroleum products. From 1909 to 1927, coal tar was transported from the Court Street Site to the Cayuga Inlet Site via a wooden duct.

Remedial Investigation:

In October 2001, a remedial investigation was initiated to fully delineate the extent of contamination. During this investigation, considerable off-site migration of MGP related contamination was detected. To facilitate the remediation of the plant site while the off-site impacts are further investigated,

the site was divided into two operable units. Operable Unit 1 (OU-1), which is the subject of this proposal, is defined to include the plant site and the subsurface wooden duct located along West Court Street.

Operable Unit 2 will address all other contamination. This will include: 1) coal tar and associated soil and groundwater contamination observed north and west of the plant site; 2) coal tar and related impacts observed north of the wooden duct between Park Place and Washington Street, extending along Washington Street to Cascadilla Street; and 3) the wooden duct west of Meadow Street and east of the Cayuga Inlet Coal Tar Site (Site No. 7-55-007) which was previously remediated by NYSEG.

The remedial investigation found coal tar throughout much of the plant site as shown in the Figure 1 on the final page of this fact sheet. A layer of silty clay underlying the site at a depth of 7-14 feet appears to be controlling the horizontal and vertical migration of coal tar and associated contamination in the soil and groundwater. The coal tar appears to have migrated vertically to the surface of the clay, and then migrated horizontally along the uneven surface of this layer.

The wooden duct is known to contain coal tar, and at least one breach is believed to exist near Washington Street, where coal tar and related contamination have been observed as described above.

Feasibility Study (FS): Subsequent to the RI, a feasibility study was developed to evaluate potential remedial action alternatives. The report titled “NYSEG Ithaca Court Street Site: Focused Feasibility Study Report for Operable Unit-1”, dated May 9, 2003, compares remedial alternatives using the following criteria:

1. Whether each method protects human health and the environment;
2. Short and long term effectiveness and permanence;
3. How much each method reduces the toxicity, amount, and mobility (ability to move away from the site) of the hazardous waste;
4. How difficult each method is to implement;
5. Whether each method will result in compliance with cleanup standards; and
6. Cost effectiveness.

Proposed Remedy, Plant Site: The boundaries of the plant site are shown on Figure 1, and are defined as extending to the inside of the sidewalks to the north, west and south, and to the fencing to the east. Based on the evaluation of various alternatives, the NYSDEC is proposing removal of contaminated materials as described below to address the contamination at the former plant site. The proposed remedy includes:

- Excavation of the top two (2) feet of soil from the entire site;
- Excavation and off-site treatment or disposal of all subsurface soil to a depth of eight (8) feet containing individual PAHs above objectives in TAGM 4046;
- Excavation and off-site treatment or disposal of all subsurface soil below eight (8) feet which is visually impacted by coal tar or which contains total PAHs in excess of 500 parts per million (ppm), including the excavation of all MGP structures;
- All subsurface excavation would take place under an enclosing structure to minimize emission of vapors and odors;
- Implementation of institutional controls which would allow for residential use, but would prohibit construction of drinking water wells and limit/control subsurface excavations below 8 feet.

Proposed Remedy, Wooden Duct: This remedy would include the removal of the subsurface wooden duct which runs along West Court Street from the site to Meadow Street. The extent of the proposed removal is shown in Figure 2 on the final page of this fact sheet. This will serve not only to eliminate this duct as a potential source of contamination and hazard to utility workers, but will also be a significant part of the investigation of OU-2, since any breaches in the duct will be identified, accurately located and sampled. During the removal of the duct, a negative pressure air handling system would be utilized to minimize vapor emissions and odors, which would direct air from the work zone into an air handling and treatment system. Prior to being used at the site, this system would be field tested to demonstrate it is effective at minimizing odors and meeting all requirements of the Community Air Monitoring Program and the Health and Safety Plan.

A more detailed description of the site history, existing conditions and the proposed alternative, as well as other alternatives evaluated by the NYSDEC, can be found in the PRAP, which is available at the document repositories listed below.

Document Repositories: The following locations have been established as document repositories to provide you with access to information about the site. The PRAP and other site-related documents are available for review at the following locations:

<u>Tompkins County Public Library</u> 101 East Green Street Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 272-4557 Hours: 10 - 9 Monday - Thursday 10 - 5 Friday & Saturday 1 - 5 Sundays	<u>NYSDEC Central Office</u> 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-7017 (518) 402-9686 Attn: William Ottaway, P.E. e-mail:wsottawa@gw.dec.state.ny.us.	<u>NYSEG</u> Ithaca-Dryden Road PO Box 3287 Ithaca, NY 14852-3287 (607) 347-2148 Attn: Robert Pass rlpass@nyseg.com
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<u>Coal Tar Advisory Committee</u> 211 Esty Steet Ithaca, NY14850 (607) 256-7389	<u>City of Ithaca</u> Office of the Mayor 108 East Green Street (607) 274-6501
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Your Opportunities to be kept Informed and Involved: Please come to the public meeting announced in the sidebar on page 1. Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for Operable Unit 1 of the NYSEG Ithaca Court Street MGP Site. Your understanding and involvement in this project will help to ensure an effective remedial program. You are encouraged to contact any of those listed below at any time with questions, comments or concerns.

**For More Information About
The Investigation/PRAP/Meeting:**

William Ottaway
NYSDEC
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7017
Phone # : (518) 402-9662

**For More Information About
Site-Related Health Concerns:**

Henriette Hamel
NYSDOH
217 South Salina Street
Syracuse, New York 13202-3592
Phone # : (315) 477-8163

What Happens Next: All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for Operable Unit 1 of the NYSEG Ithaca Court Street MGP Site is finalized. Public input will be factored into a Record of Decision (ROD), which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. A “responsiveness summary”, which will respond to the comments received, will be prepared. Work will then continue to design and implement the selected remedy.

Reports on the results and findings from previous investigation of the site have been reproduced in electronic format (CD ROM) and are available for review at the document repositories listed above. A copy of the documents in CD ROM format can also be requested from NYSEG. Contact NYSEG’s Tracy Blazicek at (607) 762-8839 or tlblazicek@nyseg.com for further information. E-mail requests are preferred.

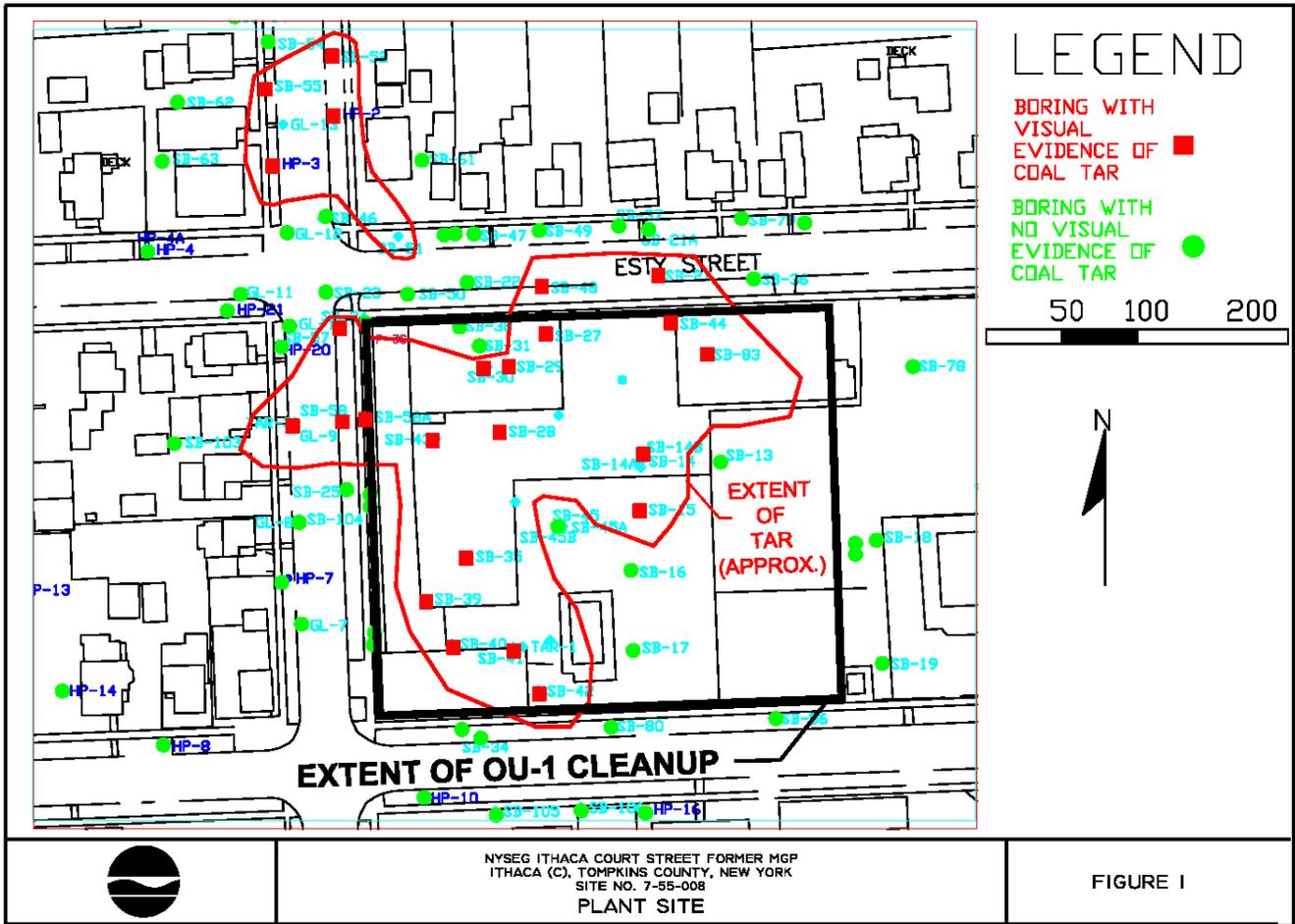


FIGURE 2
LOCATION OF WOODEN DUCT