



FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

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NYSEG Ithaca Court Street Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site OU2, Site #755008
North Plain, West Court, Esty and Washington Streets, Ithaca, NY February 2011

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

The public is invited to comment on the remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address environmental impacts related to the NYSEG Ithaca Court Street Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site, OU2. The site is located at between West Court and Esty Streets, east of North Plain Street, in the City of Ithaca, Tompkins County. This proposed remedy is for Operable Unit 2 (OU2) of the site which will address contamination to the north and west of the site, as well as contamination associated with the tar conduits below West Court Street beyond the area defined in

Operable Unit 1 (OU1). See the attached map for the site location. NYSEG (New York State Electric & Gas) has agreed to investigate and remediate the site to a level that is protective of public health and the environment. The investigation and remediation are being performed with the oversight of the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

Public Meeting
Friday, March 11
7:00 pm

Greater Ithaca Activity Center
318 North Albany Street
Ithaca, NY

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for this site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The Proposed Remedy

The remedy proposed for the site includes excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil immediately north and west of the plant site. A seam of tar west of the plant site and north of Esty Street would be treated in place using chemical oxidation. The remedy also provides for monitoring and, where appropriate, treatment of residual contamination beyond the extent of the coal tar “source areas.”

The proposed remedy is described in a draft cleanup plan called a “Proposed Remedial Action Plan”, developed under New York State’s Manufactured Gas Plant Program. The document is available for public review at the locations identified below under “Where to Find Information” and on the internet at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html>

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy for 30 days, from March 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011.

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 235 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

Submit written comments to:

William Ottaway, Project Manager
NYSDEC

625 Broadway, 11th Floor

Albany, NY 12233-7014

1-866-520-2334

wsottawa@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Summary of the Proposed Remedy

The proposed remedy represents the alternative preferred by NYSDEC, NYSDOH and NYSEG to address site impacts. The draft cleanup plan includes:

- Removal of soil containing visual indications of coal tar and contaminant levels that exceed the cleanup levels established for the site.
- Treatment of a tar seam north of Esty Street using in-situ chemical oxidation.
- Monitored Natural Attenuation for areas of impacted groundwater beyond coal tar impacts.
- Development and implementation of a site management plan

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives to address MGP impacts, called a "Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study". Other alternatives presented in the Feasibility Study include no action, capping and removal of contaminated soil to varying degrees. The proposed remedy would achieve the remediation goals for the site by permanently removing or chemically treating contaminated soil from the site. The proposed remedy would greatly reduce the source of MGP impacts to groundwater, and as provide treatment, as necessary, to create the conditions needed to restore groundwater quality to the extent possible.

The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$12,800,000, of which the cost of construction is estimated to be \$9,700,000. The remainder of the cost is associated with long term monitoring and maintenance. NYSEG will be financially responsible for implementation of the remedy.

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. This document will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" below). The project then moves to designing and performing the cleanup action to address the site contamination.

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

Background

The site is bounded by Esty, West Court and North Plain Streets in the City of Ithaca. It is the location of a former MGP, which produced combustible gas from coal and petroleum from 1852 until 1927. A complex mixture of liquid organic chemicals called coal tar condensed from the hot gas after it was manufactured. This tar is present in the subsurface at this site to a depth of approximately 18 feet, where silty clay acts as a confining layer. A wooden duct was used to transport the tar along West Court Street to Cayuga inlet, where it was loaded on barges for processing. The Cayuga Inlet site (#7-55-007) and the wooden duct (from the MGP site to Meadow Street) have already been successfully cleaned up.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the proposed cleanup plan for the site, called the “Proposed Remedial Action Plan”, and the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports.

Tompkins County Public Library

101 East Green Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

(607) 272-4557

Hours:

10 - 9 Monday - Thursday

10 - 5 Friday & Saturday

1 - 5 Sundays

Coal Tar Advisory Committee

106 Washington Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

(607) 272-1239

Attn: Jutta Dotterweich

NYSDEC Central Office

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-7017

(518) 402-9564

Attn: William Ottaway, P.E.

e-mail: wsottawa@gw.dec.state.ny.us

City of Ithaca

Office of the Mayor

108 East Green Street

(607) 274-6501

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

William Ottaway

NYSDEC

Division of Environmental Remediation

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7014

Phone #: 518-402-9564

E-Mail: wsottawa@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Justin Deming

NYSDOH

547 River Street

Troy, N.Y. 12180

Phone # : (800)-458-1158 x2-7860

E-Mail: beej@health.state.ny.us

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

