



FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

NYSEG – Wadsworth St. - Geneva Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site
Site #835015
Corner of Railroad Place and Wadsworth St
City of Geneva, NY

March 2010

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 New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) Wadsworth Street, Geneva, Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site. The site is located at the corner of Railroad Place and Wadsworth Street in the City of Geneva, Ontario County. See the attached map for the site location. NYSEG, the partial site owner, 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
March 11, 2010
6:30 pm

Courtroom
Public Safety Building
255 Exchange St.
Geneva, NY

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the clean up remedy proposed to address contamination on 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 cleanup remedy proposed for the site includes excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils, placement of a soil cover and land use restrictions on the site.

The proposed remedy is described in a draft cleanup plan called a “Proposed Remedial Action Plan” or PRAP, was 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”.

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy for 30 days, from **February 26, 2010 through March 29, 2010.**

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

Submit written comments to:

Mr. Douglas MacNeal, P.E.
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
866-520-2334
518-402-9564
dkmacnea@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:

- The removal of the subsurface structure and MGP-related impacted soils. This will remove all of the source material that is accessible on the site.
- Construction of a one foot thick soil cover over the NYSEG-owned property. This will include the removal of the top layer of soil, re-grading

of the property to ensure drainage, and installation of a demarcation barrier below the new soil cover.

- A technology to enhance natural processes for contaminant degradation in groundwater will be applied if it's determined to be viable.
- An environmental easement to restrict the use of the site to commercial use only.
- Development and implementation of a Site Management Plan.
- Evaluation of soil vapor intrusion prior to the construction of any future on-site buildings.

The proposed cleanup 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, and containment and removal of contaminated soil to varying degrees. The proposed remedy would achieve the remediation goals for the site by permanently removing accessible source material, thereby greatly reducing the source of MGP impacts to groundwater. This would create the conditions needed to restore groundwater quality to the extent possible.

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 NYSEG – Wadsworth St. -Geneva Former MGP Site is one of approximately 200 former MGP sites that existed across New York State in the early 20th century. The Wadsworth Street plant was operated by NYSEG and NYSEG’s predecessor companies from approximately 1853 to 1903. 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, 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 NYSEG. MGP impacts were found primarily in soil and groundwater within the historic footprint of the plant. This area includes the NYSEG parcel as well as the Public Safety Building (PSB) and a portion of Railroad Place due south of the NYSEG property.

The NYSEG parcel of the site is being fenced and the remaining portion of the site is covered with buildings or asphalt; 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. A sub-slab depressurization system was installed in the PSB to prevent the potential for future soil vapor intrusion. This system is monitored to ensure that it is operating successfully.

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.

Geneva Public Library 244 Main Street Geneva, NY 14456 (315) 789-5303 Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10-8 Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5	New York State DEC Region 8 Headquarters Avon Office 6274 Avon-Lima Rd. (Rtes. 5 and 20) Avon, NY 14414-9519 (585) 226-5326 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-4:45 Contact: Lisa LoMaestro Silvestri	New York State DEC Central Office 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-7014 (518) 402-9564 Hours: Mon-Fri. 8:30-4:30 Contact: Douglas MacNeal, P.E.
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You may also wish to visit NYSEG’s website at <http://www.nyseg.com/OurCompany/mgp/GenevaWadsworth/GenevaWadsworth.html> for more information about the Geneva Wadsworth MGP site

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Mr. Douglas MacNeal
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 402-9662
866-520-2334
(518) 402-9564
dkmacnea@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Ms. Debby McNaughton
NYSDOH
335 E. Main St.
Rochester, NY 14604
(585) 423-8069

Lisa LoMaestro Silvestri
Citizen Participation Specialist
NYSDEC
6274 East Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414
(585) 226-5326

To direct questions to NYSEG, please contact:

Mr. Robert Pass
Manager – Regional Outreach & Development
NYSEG
1387 Dryden Road
Ithaca, NY 14850-
Phone: 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 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.

