



Public Meeting Invitation

**Thursday,
March 19, 2009
7:00 PM**

NYSEG Geneva Service
Center
152 Border City Road
Geneva, New York 14456

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed remedy for the NYSEG-Geneva-Border City MGP Site. At the meeting, representatives from the NYSDEC and NYSDOH will:

- Describe results of the site investigations;
- Explain the proposed remedy and other alternatives considered;
- Answer your questions about the remedy;
- Receive your verbal or written comments about the proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

From: February 27, 2009
To: March 30, 2009

FACT SHEET

February 2009

NYSEG-Geneva-Border City
MGP SITE
SITE No. 850008
152 Border City Road
Geneva, New York 14456

Remedy Proposed for the NYSEG-Geneva-Border City Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site

Public Meeting, Comment Period Announced

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed a remedy designed to address contamination identified at the NYSEG-Geneva-Border City MGP in Waterloo, New York (*see location map on page 4*).

The Proposed Action: Highlights of the proposed remedy includes a contamination source removal on the main site and consolidation and capping of waste material immediately east of the site. This proposal is described in the site's Proposed Remedial Action Plan or PRAP. The PRAP was developed following a detailed investigation of the site. The PRAP evaluates different options to clean up the site and presents the alternative preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

See pages 2 and 3 of this fact sheet for a summary of the PRAP, site background, and summary of the site investigation. The full PRAP is available for your review at the document repositories listed on page 3.

Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy: Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for the site. Your comment and input about the proposed remedy are important and encouraged.

Your oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the **public meeting** (see sidebar) and during a **public comment period** which runs until March 30, 2009. Written comments also may be mailed until the end of the comment period to:

Douglas MacNeal, P.E.
NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014

What Happens Next: All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for the NYSEG-Geneva-Border City MGP site is finalized. Public input will be factored into the Record of Decision or ROD

which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. NYSDEC will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary included in the ROD.

and low permeability cap The property owner would provide a periodic certification of institutional and engineering controls.

Summary of Proposed Remedial Action

The site occupies approximately 15 acres in the Town of Waterloo, Seneca County. It is currently used as a NYSEG Service Center and is surrounded by residential, commercial and industrial properties. The PRAP identifies the remedy preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to remediate the coal tar and purifier waste, and the associated volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs and SVOCs) in the groundwater and adjacent sediments. The proposed alternative was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives for remediating the contamination.

The elements of the proposed remedy include:

- The removal and off-site treatment and disposal of source material (defined as containing visible tars or oils, or stained or odorous soils with a total PAH level over 1,000 parts per million or ppm).
- The removal and off-site disposal of an on-site subsurface vault and the contents of several intact purifier waste structures on site.
- The removal and off-site disposal of impacted sediments from the two perimeter drainage ways and from a former settling basin used to store waste water from their coal coking operations.
- Consolidation of purifier waste and construction of a low permeability cap to minimize groundwater contamination and reduce the future potential for exposures. Purifier waste material with a reactive cyanide level over 250 ppm or a reactive sulfide level over 500 ppm would be subject to removal.
- Implementation of a groundwater management plan for the contaminated groundwater in the overburden and the. Additional, active, remedial measures may be taken, if technically justified.
- Imposition of an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement which would restrict future construction or development on the site.
- Development of a site management plan which would include institutional and engineering controls, such as regular inspection and maintenance of the soil covers

Costs and Funding for the Site Remedy

The total present worth to construct and implement the proposed remedy is estimated at \$3,300,000 and will be paid by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG).

Health Issues

No completed exposure pathways have been identified at this site. Groundwater at the site is not used for drinking water purposes since the area is served by public water. Although exposures to contaminated soil by the general public are unlikely because the majority of the site is covered with stone and public access is limited by fencing, workers who complete ground-intrusive activities on-site or off-site could potentially be exposed through dermal contact and/or incidental ingestion. Similarly, these workers may also be exposed to coal tar in the subsurface and contaminated groundwater. The NYSDEC and NYSDOH have determined no actions are necessary to address exposures to site-related contaminants due to soil vapor intrusion.

Site History

The site operated as a manufactured gas plant from roughly 1901 through 1934. The gas produced was used to heat and light homes. Poor disposal practices, including a deep injection well, and leaking storage vessels resulted in the contamination found on the site

Site Investigation

The Remedial Investigation or RI was conducted between November 2002 and December 2005. The field activities and findings of the investigation are described in the RI report, available in the document repositories. Samples were collected from surface soil, subsurface soil, sediment, groundwater, surface water, soil vapor and indoor air.

The principal waste product produced at the former MGP site was coal tar, which is an oily, dark colored liquid with a strong, objectionable odor. Coal tar is referred to as a dense non-aqueous phase liquid or DNAPL since it is heavier than water and will not readily dissolve in water. The tar contains high levels of VOCs and SVOCs.

There is another waste product, found on-site, associated with the MGP process. Purifier waste was created during the gas's purification process. It is usually wood chips which are contaminated with a complex cyanide compound. This site is unusual in the fact that a portion of the purifier structure is still intact and purifier waste remains in this structure. There is also purifier waste in the eastern portion of the site.

when a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before completion of the RI/FS.

In 2004, an IRM was performed in the western portion of the site. This IRM addressed MGP tar in the shallow subsurface which was seeping to the surface. A defined area of soil and MGP tar was removed down to an average depth of three feet, and the excavation was backfilled with clean fill from an off site commercial source.

Interim Remedial Measures

An interim remedial measure (IRM) is conducted at a site

Document Repositories: *To review the complete PRAP and other site information:*

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
Contact: Lisa LoMaestro Silvestri
for appointment
(585) 226-5326
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-4:45

NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7014
Contact: Douglas MacNeal
Phone: (518) 402-9564
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

For More Information: *Call or write the following staff for more information about:*

**Meeting/Comment Period/
Technical Information:**
Douglas MacNeal, P.E.
NYSDEC
625 Broadway 11th floor
Albany, New York 12233-7014
Phone: 518 402-9564
dkmacnea@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Health-Related Information:
Melissa Menetti
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, New York 12180-2216
Phone: (800)458-1158
ext.27860mxm29@health.state.ny.us

Citizen Participation:
Lisa LoMaestro Silvestri
NYSDEC Region 8 Office
6274 E. Avon - Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
Phone: (585) 226 - 5326
lasilves@gw.dec.state.ny.us



**NYSEG-Geneva-Border City MGP 850008
Site Location Map**