



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

**Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email*.** See "For More Information" to Learn How.

**Site Name:** NYSEG - Seneca Falls MGP  
**DEC Site #:** 850010  
**Address:** 187 Fall St  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Have questions?  
See  
"Who to Contact"  
Below

### **Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced**

**Public Meeting, Wednesday, 3/11/2015 at 7:00 PM  
Seneca Falls Library- Meeting Room  
47 Cayuga St.**

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

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the NYSEG - Seneca Falls MGP site ("site") located at 187 Fall St, Seneca Falls, Seneca County. Please see the map for the site location.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

#### **How to Comment**

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from **February 27, 2015** through **March 30, 2015**. The proposed plan is available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

#### **Proposed Remedial Action Plan**

The remedy proposed for the site includes:

In-situ solidification of the upland portion of the site;

Excavation of soils with site-related contamination on the adjacent residential property to the east;

Placement of a soil cover on the lowland portion of the site and on the lowland area in a part of the property to the west;

Dredging of contaminated sediments from the canal in areas adjacent to the site;

Filing of an environmental easement on the site, which requires long-term monitoring of the property, prohibits groundwater use on the site, and allows for commercial or industrial uses of the site and;

The development of a site management plan which ensures that the long-term engineering and institutional controls are adhered to.

#### *Summary of the Investigation*

The remedial investigation at the site found soils on the site are contaminated with coal tar and its constituents, specifically polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and VOCs. Representative chemicals in these categories are the VOCs benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX) and the PAHs benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, pyrene, chrysene and naphthalene. Coal tar is found in blebs and stringers in a limited area immediately around the gas holder in the upland portion of the site at depths from 8 feet below the ground to as deep as the bottom of the holder, roughly 22 feet deep. Tar is found between 2 and 4 feet deep across the lowland portion of the site in various locations. The tar is generally limited to the fill areas with some minor impacts in the glacial till immediately adjacent to the gas holder.

PAHs are found in the subsurface soils, mostly adjacent to the areas where the coal tar is found. PAHs are also found in the surface soils on an adjacent property at levels exceeding residential SCOs. This is likely due to filling operations using ash or other waste materials from the gas plant.

The groundwater at the site is contaminated with VOCs, PAHs and cyanide. The source of this contamination appears to be the coal tar. Groundwater discharging to the canal may contain these contaminants, but at much lower levels.

The sediments in the canal south of the site are impacted by the site. Coal tar has been found in an area along the bank of the river in front of the site extending roughly 40 to 50 feet out into the canal.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "feasibility study" submitted under New York's State Superfund Program by New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG).

#### **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.

#### **Background**

**Location:** The site is located in an urban area of Seneca County at 187 Fall Street in the Village of Seneca Falls. The site is bounded by the Seneca Canal to the south, Fall Street to the north, a gas station to the west, and a single-family residence to the east.

**Site Features:** The site has two distinct topographic levels. The upland portion is the northern two-thirds of the site, adjacent to Fall Street. The lowland portion to the south borders the

Seneca Canal and is roughly 20 feet lower in elevation. The main site feature of the upland portion is a building slab and parking lot. A commercial building had been on the property but was demolished in 2009. The lowland portion is vacant and wooded.

**Current Zoning and Land Use:** The site is zoned commercial but it is currently vacant. The surrounding parcels are a mixture of commercial and residential. The nearest residence is roughly 20 yards to the east.

**Past Use of the Site:** The site was used as manufactured gas plant from 1856-1903. After that, the site sat vacant as various parts of the plant were demolished from 1905 to 1944. The subsurface remnants of the gas holder appear to still be in place however. The commercial building was constructed in the 1960s or 1970s and was used for various retail establishments (e.g., office supply store and video rental).

**Site Geology and Hydrogeology:** The upland portion of the site is immediately underlain by 6 to 20 feet of fill, which is underlain by a 12-24 foot thick layer of glacial till. Beneath the till is bedrock. The lowland portion of the site has a thin layer of fill ranging from 4 to 11 feet in depth. The glacial till is present in a much thinner layer over much of the lowland portion of the site. However, in the southeast corner, the till is absent and the bedrock is immediately overlain by fill.

Groundwater at the site is roughly 10 feet below grade in the upland portion of the site and only a few feet below grade in the lowland portion. Groundwater generally flows from north to south towards the canal.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=850010>

**State Superfund Program:** New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

**About the Manufactured Gas Plant Program:** NYSDEC has one of the most aggressive Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) 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 seven 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. NYSDEC continues to seek to identify any other possible MGP sites throughout the State.

For more information about the MGP program, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Where to Find Information**

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Seneca Falls Library  
Attn: Meghan Molloy  
47 Cayuga St  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
Phone: 315-568-8265

### **Who to Contact**

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

#### Project Related Questions

Douglas MacNeal  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
518-402-9662  
[douglas.macneal@dec.ny.gov](mailto:douglas.macneal@dec.ny.gov)

#### Site-Related Health Questions

Steven Karpinski  
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation  
Empire State Plaza - Corning Tower Room 1787  
Albany, NY 12237  
Phone: (518) 402-7860  
[BEEI@health.ny.gov](mailto:BEEI@health.ny.gov)

**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**

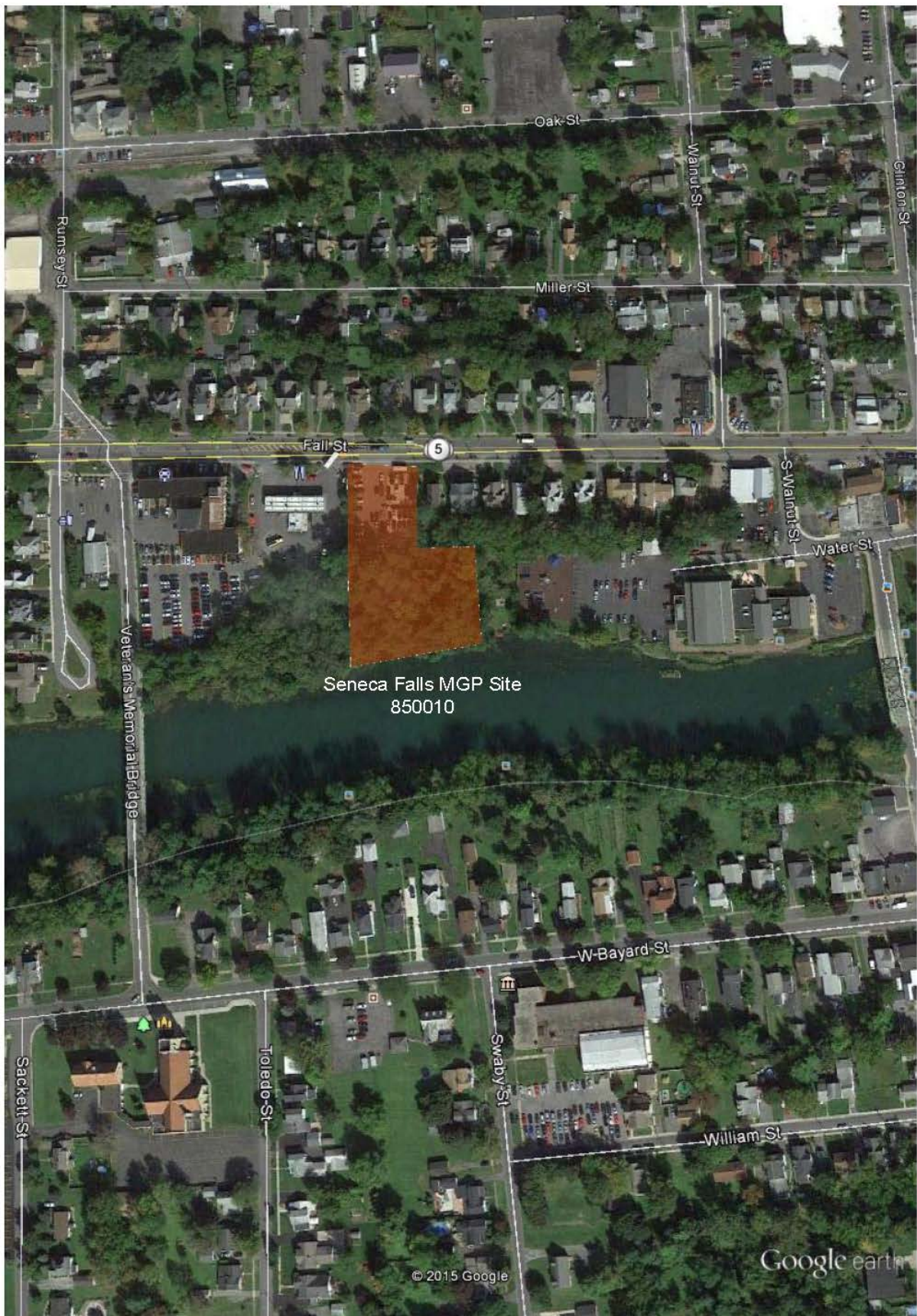
Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.



As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.





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