



**Remedial
Investigation to Start**
September 17, 2007

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Remedial Investigation to Begin at Manufactured Gas Plant Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) are announcing that the investigation of a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site, located on Linden Street in Penn Yan will begin on Monday, September 17th.

Site History

The former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site is located on Linden Street, formerly known as Jackson Street, in the Village of Penn Yan (see the attached figure for site location). The plant made combustible gas from coal and operated from approximately 1860 until 1901. The gas was provided to homes, businesses and industries in much the same way natural gas is used today. Sometime after 1936 the site was sold as a residential property. In the early 1990s NYSEG purchased the property, and the company is the current owner. Additional information on MGPs can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>.

NYSEG conducted preliminary investigations of the site in the early 1990s. Subsurface soil in the area of the former MGP structures was found to be contaminated with coal tar and other MGP-related byproducts. Chemicals associated with these coal tar residues include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds including benzene and toluene.

These byproducts appear to have contaminated groundwater that is moving off-site in an easterly direction toward Jacobs Brook. Based on the preliminary investigations, surface water and sediment quality in Jacobs Brook do not appear to have been affected.

In 1994, NYSEG entered into a consent order with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that requires NYSEG to investigate and, where necessary, remediate 33 former MGP sites. The former Jackson Street site is one of two MGP sites in Penn Yan. (The other site is located on Water Street). Both sites are among the 33 sites included in the consent order. Under the terms of the consent order, all work will be done under the oversight of DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH).

Remedial Investigation

At this time, NYSEG is beginning a Remedial Investigation (RI) of the former Jackson Street site. The RI will determine the nature and extent of byproducts associated with the former operations of the MGP present on the site. Field work for the RI is planned to start in mid-September and will include the following:

Source Investigation: A geophysical survey will be conducted to tentatively locate the underground structures associated with the former MGP. Soil borings and test pits will then be progressed to more accurately define the limits of the MGP structures and to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of MGP-related byproducts in the subsurface soils.

Groundwater: Additional monitoring wells will be installed. These will be used in conjunction with the existing monitoring wells that were installed during the previous investigations to determine the extent of MGP-related impacts to the aquifer.

Surface Soils: Soil samples will be collected and analyzed to determine if MGP-related byproducts are present and, if so, to what extent.

Jacobs Brook: Surface water and sediment samples will be collected and analyzed. Results will confirm previous information indicating that MGP-related byproducts were not present in the brook.

Soil gas/soil vapor intrusion: The investigation will include an evaluation of the potential for soil vapor intrusion in one of the homes near the site.

For More Information

DEC, DOH and NYSEG will keep you informed throughout the remedial program. Your understanding and involvement in this project will help ensure an effective remedy. If you would like more information about this project you are encouraged to review site-related documents that are available for public review at:

Penn Yan Public Library
214 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527
(315)-536-6114

Hours: Monday through Friday,
10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.;

Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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If you have any questions or concerns regarding the investigation or other environmental aspects of the site, you may contact the NYSDEC's project manager, Mr. Hank Willems at (518) 402-9564. For health-related concerns regarding this site, feel free to contact the NYSDOH's Ms. Julia Gustella at (518) 402-7890.