

## **Remedial Investigation to Begin at Former MGP Site**

### **KeySpan Opens Citizens Site Hotline**

**KeySpan has a special Hotline for neighbors of the Citizens site. The Hotline will provide news about the investigation and provide an opportunity to ask questions or leave comments. Our goal is to return your call in 1 business day,**

Telephone Hotline:  
Jim McCabe  
718.403.2084  
or e-mail  
James McCabe  
[jmccabe@keyspanenergy.com](mailto:jmccabe@keyspanenergy.com)

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Project Manager:**  
Joseph Moloughney, P.E.  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7017  
518-402-9662  
[jmmoloug@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:jmmoloug@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

### **City of New York**

**Contact**  
Lee Ilan 212.788.2929  
[lilan@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:lilan@cityhall.nyc.gov)

KeySpan is about to begin a Remedial Investigation under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) at the former Citizen's Gas Works Manufactured Gas Plant in Carroll Gardens (also known as the Public Place site). The approximately 8.4 acre site consists of four lots, two of which are owned by the City of New York, and two of which are privately owned. The site is bounded by Fourth Street, Hoyt Street, Fifth Street, Smith Street, Seventh Street and the Gowanus Canal.

### **History**

A Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) operated on the site from approximately 1858 through the mid-1950's. Brooklyn Union Gas, the predecessor company to KeySpan, owned the site and operated the MGP from 1895 (when it was purchased from Citizens Gas Company), until decommissioning in 1959. Brooklyn Union sold the entire site in the 1960's to a private company. Portions of the site subsequently were sold or leased to other businesses. The City acquired ownership of Lots 1 and 100 through a condemnation proceeding in 1975. Most of the original site remains vacant, but portions are occupied by Ferrara Brothers Cement (under a lease from the City) and other commercial uses.

### **Previous Environmental Investigations**

On behalf of various agencies of New York State and the City of New York, and paid for in part by Brooklyn Union, at least four limited-scale environmental investigations have been conducted (Stone & Webster 1985; TRW 1985; EA Science and Technology 1987; Roux Associates for Gibbs & Hill 1989-90). Two reviewed data and site histories and two were field studies. The studies identified subsurface MGP wastes, complicated by illegal dumping on the site for 20 years after Brooklyn Union's sale of the property and its condemnation by New York City. In 1989-90 a Phase II investigation conducted for NYSDEC, determined that soils, subsurface water and ground water on the site were contaminated and that contaminated groundwater may be migrating to the Gowanus Canal. The contaminants detected include BTEX, PAHs, naphthalene and volatile organics, typical of former MGP operations.

## **Document Repositories on Citizens Gas Works Remedial Investigation**

Carroll Gardens residents have access to documents and reports about the site, including more information about the scheduled remedial investigation. The Document Repositories, as they are called, are at:

Community District 6  
250 Baltic Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718.643.3027  
District Manager: Craig Hammerman

NYSDEC Region 2  
1 Hunters Point Plaza  
47-40 21st Street  
Long Island City 11101  
718.482.4995

The repositories will include copies of all reports and related documents relating to the investigation at the Public Place/Citizens site.

We recommend calling ahead for an appointment.

## **Remedial Investigation**

Under the terms of the VCP KeySpan will conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) to determine what contaminants are present on the site, where they are located, whether they are migrating within or beyond the boundaries of the site, and whether there are any pathways through which people on or off the site could be exposed to the contaminants. KeySpan and its consultants will produce a Remedial Investigation Report presenting the data and discussing these issues. The Report will be reviewed by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH before its release for public review and comment.

## **Nature of Work**

The Remedial Investigation will be undertaken through the collection and analysis of samples taken from surface and subsurface soils, groundwater and water. This will involve drilling core samples and monitoring wells, digging test pits and collecting soil samples. Because of the amount of debris on the site, taking samples will require moving or removing the debris to permit the placement of wells and the taking of samples at the appropriate points. None of the work is expected to cause any disturbance in the community, although it is possible that odors may be released. If so, they are transient and present no risk of harm to the community. A Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) will be implemented during all intrusive activities at the site. The CAMP will contain procedures for the monitoring of ambient air as well as contingencies in the event any air impacts result from the site activities. Some of the workers involved in the project may wear protective clothing from time to time, as required by OSHA regulations for work of this type. The investigation will be performed in accordance with a Work Plan prepared by KeySpan and its contractors, reviewed by the City of New York, and approved by NYSDEC and NYSDOH. That Work Plan includes a Health and Safety Plan which requires that all the necessary steps are taken to ensure the safety of the public and workers performing the investigation.

## **Work Schedule**

The field work for investigation is scheduled to begin in early Spring and be completed by the Summer. All work will be conducted during the daytime, beginning at 7:00 a.m. and will be completed by 4:00 p.m. each day.

## **KeySpan Reps Available for Group Meetings**

If your building, tenants association, community group, church or synagogue organization or club would like to have a KeySpan representative attend a meeting of your organization to discuss the issues and answer your questions about the Citizens site clean-up, please contact Jim McCabe through the Project Hotline.