



# FACT SHEET

## Manufactured Gas Plant Program

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Whitehall Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site  
Site #V00467  
Bellamy Street  
Whitehall, NY

June 2013

### **Remedy Proposed for Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site; Public Comment Period 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 Whitehall Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site. The site is located at Bellamy Street in the village of Whitehall, Washington County. See the attached map for the site location.

National Grid, the 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).

#### **The Proposed Remedy**

The remedy proposed for the site includes excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil, removal of coal tar from soil, and land use restrictions on the site.

The proposed remedy is described in a draft cleanup plan called a “Proposed Decision Document”, 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 **July 1 through August 1, 2013**.

**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 235 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 National Grid, 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html)

Submit written comments to:

Douglas MacNeal P.E., Project Manager  
NYSDEC

625 Broadway, 11th Floor

Albany, NY 12233-7014

1-866-520-2334

[dkmacnea@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:dkmacnea@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**Summary of the Proposed Remedy**

The proposed remedy represents the alternative preferred by NYSDEC, NYSDOH and National Grid to address site impacts. The draft cleanup plan includes:

- Removal of approximately 1,200 cubic yards of soil from the adjacent private residence that contains contaminant levels that exceed NYSDEC's residential soil cleanup objectives.
- Backfill to the existing grade with clean soil.
- Installation of coal tar collection wells in the deep soils north of the site.
- An environmental easement to restrict the use

of the site to commercial/industrial uses

- Development and implementation of a site management plan

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives to address MGP impacts, called an "Alternatives Analysis Report". Other alternatives presented in the Alternatives Analysis include no action, capping and varying degrees of contaminated soil removal. The proposed remedy would achieve the remediation goals for the site by permanently removing contaminated soil and removing coal tar source material from the subsurface. The proposed remedy would greatly reduce the source of MGP impacts to groundwater, and it would create the conditions needed to restore groundwater quality to the extent feasible.

The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$1,600,000, of which the cost of construction is estimated to be \$1,000,000. The remainder of the cost is associated with long term monitoring and maintenance. National Grid will be financially responsible for implementation of the remedy.

**Next Steps**

NYSDEC invites questions and comments from the public on the proposed remedy, and will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Decision Document" that will respond to public comments and explain why the final remedy was selected. 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 Whitehall Former MGP Site is one of approximately 300 former MGP sites that existed across New York State from the early 1800s to the mid 1900s. The Whitehall plant was operated by National Grid's predecessor companies from approximately the 1860s to the 1890s. Gas was manufactured by heating coal. Freshly-manufactured gas had to be cooled and purified before it could be distributed into the surrounding community and used for lighting, heating, and cooking. Coal tar is a black, oily liquid which was produced during these processes, and some of this tar escaped from subsurface pipes and tanks into the surrounding soils.

The coal tar contains a number of chemical contaminants, primarily benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene (BTEX) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). Groundwater which comes into contact with tar-contaminated soils can become contaminated with BTEX and PAH compounds as well. The extent of these MGP impacts was delineated by a series of investigations conducted by National Grid. MGP impacts were found primarily in subsurface soil and groundwater just beyond the National Grid property boundary.

The highest concentrations of site-related contamination were found well below the ground surface. Most of the site is covered with clean gravel or vegetation, so 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.

### **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.

Whitehall Free Library  
Reference Librarian  
12 Williams St  
Whitehall, NY 12887  
(518) 499-1366

Summer hours: Tues:3:30-8:30, Weds:3:00-8:30, Thurs:2:00-6:00, Friday:3:00-8:30, Sat:10:00-3:00

NYSDEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
By appointment, contact Douglas MacNeal  
(518) 402-9662

#### **Who to Contact**

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

Project Related Questions  
Douglas MacNeal P.E.  
Project Manager

Site-Related Health Questions  
Ian Ushe  
NYSDOH

NYSDEC  
625 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Albany, NY 12233  
(518) 402-9662  
dkmacnea@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Empire State Plaza  
Corning Tower, Rm 1787  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 402-7880  
BEEI@health.state.ny.us

To direct questions to National Grid, please contact:

Brian Stearns  
National grid  
300 Erie Blvd, West  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 428-5731

**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.**

# Act Now to Continue Receiving Information About This Site!

DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation (DER) now distributes information about contaminated sites electronically by email.

If you would like to continue to receive information about the contaminated site featured in this fact sheet:

**You must sign up for the DER email listserv:**

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

DER cannot register your email address - only the email address owner can do so. If you already have signed up for the listserv for the county in which the site is located, you need do nothing.



## **Why You Should Go “Paperless”:**

Get site information faster and share it easily;

Receive information about all sites in a chosen county the rest;

It helps the environment and stretches your tax dollars.

**If “paperless” is not an option for you**, call or write to the DER project manager identified in this fact sheet. Indicate that you need to receive paper copies of fact sheets through the Postal Service. Include the site name in your correspondence. The option to receive paper is available to individuals only. Groups, organizations, businesses, and government entities are assumed to have email access.

