



*In conjunction with*



**Dear Interested Citizen:**

**This fact sheet is to inform you of the site characterization planned for the former Ossining Gas Works.**

**If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:**

Jim O'Toole  
Con Edison  
511 Theodore Fremd  
Rye, NY 10580  
Toll-free (877) 602-6633

**For site-related environmental questions, please contact:**

Matt Hubicki  
Project Manager  
NYSDEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233  
(518) 402-9662  
[mshubick@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mshubick@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**For site-related health questions, please contact:**

Carl Obermeyer  
NYSDOH  
50 North Street, Suite 2  
Monticello, NY 12701  
(845) 794-2045  
[cjo01@health.state.ny.us](mailto:cjo01@health.state.ny.us)

# Fact Sheet

April 2007

## Ossining Gas Works

### Start of Site Characterization Study at Ossining Gas Works

## Introduction

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), together with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is providing this fact sheet on activities planned for the former Ossining Gas Works, a property that is the site of a historical manufactured gas plant (MGP). The MGP site currently comprises the new Con Edison substation facility on Central Street, and the Ossining DPW yard between Central, Main, and North Water Streets.

## What are former MGPs?

Manufactured gas plants were operated between the 1800s and mid-1900s, before the development of natural gas systems, to convert coal and oil into gas for heating, lighting and cooking. Byproducts of this early production process included contaminants such as tar and purifier wastes. Tar is a dark, viscous fluid with a distinctive acrid odor. Purifier wastes are materials formed during removal of other unwanted chemicals from the gas before it was sent out to customers.

The substances of concern related to these operations include BTEX compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals. BTEX compounds are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. These are volatile hydrocarbons found in MGP byproducts and also found in most petroleum products such as gasoline. PAHs are also found in MGP byproducts as well as many petroleum products, such as asphalt.

## Project Status and Schedule

A work plan has been approved by NYSDOH to conduct investigation activities on these properties to identify the presence of MGP related impacts. In addition to work on the properties associated with the former gas plant, investigation work will also be conducted in the streets between the DPW property and the new Harbor Square development on the west side of the Metro-North rail tracks to determine the source of possible MGP related impacts found on that property. This work will be performed during the spring of 2007 and is expected to take 2 months to complete. The work will include soil borings and the installation of ground water monitoring wells.

**Documents related to this project are available at the following location:**

**Municipal Building, Town of Ossining, 16 Croton Avenue, Ossining, New York 10562, hours of operation: 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.**

## Potential Exposure

A primary goal of these investigations is to evaluate actual and potential risk to the public through exposure to contaminants from these historical operations. An exposure assessment will be completed as part of the Site Characterization to determine if people are currently being exposed to site-related contaminants or may be exposed in the future to site-related contaminants. Because the historical MGP operations ended more than 50 years ago and the site was redeveloped, potential residuals or soil contamination would be located at depth, below the present surface of the site. Therefore, direct contact exposure to these materials is not anticipated. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is not expected because this area is served by a municipal water system.

During the site characterization study, extensive efforts will be made to protect the community from potential hazards. These will include placing physical barriers to prevent access to work areas and monitoring for contaminants in the air by using real-time air monitoring in accordance with the NYSDOH's Community Air Monitoring Plan. If any contamination is found that requires remediation, a remediation plan will be developed in cooperation with the NYSDEC and NYSDOH and reviewed by the public.

## Site Background

Con Edison has entered into an agreement with the NYSDEC to identify, investigate and, if necessary, remediate sites that were operated by Con Edison or its corporate predecessors as MGPs.

The former Ossining Gas Works site was located between Central Avenue and Main Street, on the east side of North Water Street, with a gas holder situated to the north of the main plant area on Central Avenue. Con Edison and one of its corporate predecessors operated the plant from the 1850's to the 1940's.

## Public Involvement

Public understanding and involvement are integral to a successful investigation and remediation program. To provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding manufactured gas plants, Con Edison has created a series of informational resources including fact sheets, a toll-free hotline, and internet content at [www.coned.com/publicissues](http://www.coned.com/publicissues). Information can also be found at the NYSDEC website at [www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/mgp](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/mgp). In addition, a Citizen Participation Plan has been approved by NYSDEC that outlines the steps to be taken to provide for public participation in the remedial program for the site. Document repositories for site related documents have also been established so that concerned citizens can review available information. The document repositories are listed on the bottom of the front page.