

**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION**

**Remedial  
Investigation to Start  
Spring 2008**

**Public Meetings  
May 7, 2008  
4:00 to 5:30 PM  
and  
5:30 to 7:00 PM  
Public School 32  
317 Hoyt St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11231**

For site-related questions contact:

**Project Manager**

**Henry Willem**

**NYSDEC**

**625 Broadway**

**Albany, NY 12233-7014**

**(518) 402-9662**

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

For site-related health questions  
contact:

**Chris Doroski**

**NYSDOH**

**547 River St.,**

**Troy, New York 13820**

**800-458-1158 ext. 27860**

**KeySpan has a Hotline for  
neighbors of the site. The  
Hotline provides an opportunity  
to ask questions or leave  
comments.**

Telephone Hotline:718-403-2084

KeySpan/National Grid Former Fulton Municipal MGP, Brooklyn

Site #224051

April 2008

# FACT SHEET

## **Public Meeting Scheduled To Announce Remedial Investigation At Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site By KeySpan/National Grid**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and KeySpan/National Grid (hereinafter "KeySpan") are announcing two Public Meetings to discuss the remedial investigation of a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site, located on Degraw St. near the Gowanus Canal. The investigation will begin in the spring of 2008. This remedial investigation represents the next step in the process of cleaning up this site pursuant to a Consent Order entered into by KeySpan in 2007.

### **Site History**

The former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site is on either side of Degraw St. between Third Ave. and Nevins St. in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn. Part of the site is occupied by the Thomas Greene Park, the rest is private property (see Figure 1 for the site location). The plant made combustible gas from coal and operated from approximately 1886 until 1933. The gas was provided to homes, businesses and industries in much the same way natural gas is used today. Additional information on MGPs can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>.

### **Site Characterization Investigation**

In April 2007, NYSDEC began a Site Characterization Investigation to determine if any contamination related to the former MGP remained in the subsurface soils. Since access to private property was not available, the investigation was conducted in the Thomas Greene Park and in the streets surrounding the two former plants.

The principal contamination targeted by the investigation was coal tar, which is the primary byproduct associated with MGP sites. Coal tar, which condensed from the hot gas produced by the plant, is a brownish to black liquid with an odor similar to driveway sealer. It contains a variety of environmental contaminants including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX).

### **Site-related Contamination**

Coal tar contamination was not observed at or near the surface of the ground, but was found in soil borings done as part of the Site Characterization in the subsurface soils at depths below 7 feet. Soils less than 7 feet below ground were not found to contain tar contamination. Because of these depths, human exposure to coal tar contaminants by routine users of the park, workers involved in park operations, or people in the surrounding neighborhood is not expected. Exposures to construction or maintenance staff could occur during intrusive subsurface work that reaches to depths where the contamination was

found. Such work could include heavy construction and underground utility installation or repair beneath the park in the areas near the swimming pool, handball courts, and the western edge of the basketball courts.

## Next Steps

In 2007, KeySpan signed a Consent Order with NYSDEC that requires the company to investigate and, where necessary, remediate 17 former MGP sites. The former Fulton site is one of three MGP sites near the Gowanus Canal. The other sites are the Carroll Gardens/Public Place former MGP, and the former Metropolitan Works MGP. The Fulton and Metropolitan sites are among the 17 sites included in the Consent Order. Under the terms of the order, all work will be done under the oversight of NYSDEC and the NYSDOH.

In the spring of 2008, KeySpan will begin a remedial investigation and feasibility study to determine the full nature and extent of contamination at the site, and to evaluate remedial alternatives.

## For More Information

NYSDEC, NYSDOH and KeySpan 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 the following locations. We recommend you call ahead for an appointment.

Community Board District 6  
250 Baltic St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718)-643-3027  
District Manager:  
Craig Hammerman

NYSDEC  
Central Office, 625 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12233-7014  
Attn: Henry Willems  
(518) 402-9662  
email: [htwillems@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:htwillems@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

NYSDEC, Region 2  
1 Hunters Point Plaza  
47-40 21<sup>st</sup> St.  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
(718) 482-4995

Figure 1.

