



FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

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Fulton Municipal Works Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site
Site #2-24-051
Nevins, Sackett and Degraw Streets
Brooklyn, N Y 11201

October 2012

Remedial Investigation Completed at Fulton Municipal Works MGP Site; Public Meeting Announced to Discuss Report and Next Steps

The public is invited to a Public Availability Session at which the results of the Remedial Investigation for the former Fulton Municipal Works Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site (“Site”) will be presented and discussed. At the meeting, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will also discuss next steps for the cleanup of the Site located in multiple parcels along Sackett, DeGraw and Nevins streets, between the Gowanus Canal and 3rd Avenue in Brooklyn. See the attached map for site location and location of the parcels. The parcels are owned by private parties and the City of New York. Predecessor companies of National Grid operated the MGP, making the company responsible for remediating the Site to a level protective of public health and the environment. The investigation and remediation is being performed by National Grid with the oversight of the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). For additional information on MGPs, please visit www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html.

Public Availability Session

October 18, 2012

7-9 p.m.

**The Children’s School
Gymnasium Entrance**

219 1st Street

Brooklyn NY 11215

NYSDEC invites you to a Public Availability Session at which representatives of the NYSDEC, NYSDOH, National Grid and its contractor will present and discuss the Remedial Investigation Report for the Site and discuss next steps in the

Background

Gas was manufactured on the Site, from approximately 1879 until 1929. The manufacture of gas, in general terms, consisted of heating coal and/or petroleum and recovering the vapors to produce raw gas. By-products associated with these operations generally include coal tar, sludge, oils, ashes and contaminated wood chips. Neither National Grid nor its predecessor companies have owned the land for many years, and it is presently owned and used by multiple private owners, tenants of owners and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

Summary of Remedial Investigation (RI) Report

The RI was conducted through analysis of samples taken from soils, groundwater, sub-slab soil vapor and indoor air. The summarized key findings are:

- Visible coal tar and petroleum impacts were found in soils beneath the site and in areas to the west bordering on the Gowanus Canal (Parcels I, II, III, IV, VI, VII and VIII – see map). These impacts ranged from minor staining of the soil to complete saturation of soil pore spaces with coal tar.
- Most of the soil impacts were found at depths greater than 30 feet, but some contamination was noted as shallow as 5 feet below the ground. Impacts reached depths of over 100 feet in some areas. Within the Gowanus Canal, tar impacts were primarily found in native sediments, beneath a layer of more recently deposited organic-rich material which results from the discharge of combined sewers into the canal. The tar impacts appear to be the result of several different processes, including direct spills and discharges into the canal and subsurface migration from source areas beneath the site itself. The tar impacted sediments may in some cases have been redistributed by the operation of the flushing tunnel, which is operated to improve water quality in the canal.
- The primary chemical compounds detected in soil and sediment include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (known as BTEX) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (known as PAHs). These compounds are frequently associated with former MGP operations but also have other sources in the surrounding neighborhood.
- The results from soil gas sampling at on-site buildings demonstrated that the concentrations of potential MGP-related contaminants were within background levels (the levels that would be found in areas not near a former MGP site).
- Under current conditions, these impacted soils and sediments pose no risk of harm to human health because the contamination is located underground and is thus not readily accessible. There are, however, potential future pathways by which human receptors could come into contact with both MGP-related and non-MGP-related chemical compounds in subsurface soil, groundwater, soil vapor and indoor air. Utility and construction workers may come into contact with contaminants in subsurface soils at each of the parcels and beneath the streets during excavation activities.
- There is minimal risk for impacts to ecological receptors at the MGP Site itself, again due to the location of the contamination below the ground surface, and also due to the lack of habitat and the transient nature of urban wildlife. Impacts to wildlife in the Canal are possible.

Next Steps

National Grid will be developing a Feasibility Study describing and evaluating options for a comprehensive remedial program for the Site. NYSDEC has also directed National Grid to conduct a Pre-Design Investigation (PDI) for an Interim Remedial Measure to prevent subsurface migration of contamination from the MGP site into the Gowanus on an expedited basis, in order to help support the USEPA's cleanup plans for the canal itself. Most of the field work for this expedited investigation has already been completed. The Work Plan describing this effort can be found in the Document Repositories and on the website National Grid maintains for the Site. NYSDEC will continue to keep the public informed during the cleanup of the Site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public to stay informed.

Brooklyn Community Board 6
250 Baltic Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 643 3027
District Manager:
Craig Hammerman

NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7014
Attn: Henry Willems
Phone : (518) 402-9662
Email: htwillem@gw.dec.state.ny.us

National Grid maintains a website for the Fulton Municipal Works former MGP Project. The website has background material on the Site and project and has a Key Documents section with the major reports as well as an archive of weekly activities reports www.fultonmgpsite.com.

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Henry Willems, Engineering Geologist I,
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
Phone: 518-402-9662
Email: htwillem@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Christopher M. Doroski
Public Health Specialist 2
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
518-402-7860
cmd16@health.state.ny.us

National Grid's Telephone Hotline to ask questions or comment: (718) 403-2055

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.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites. County email listservs are available at the following web page: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's *quick*, it's *free*, and it will help keep you *better informed*. As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select. You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

Site Map

