



# FACT SHEET

## Voluntary Cleanup Program

**Site Name:** NM - Oswego W. Utica St. MGP  
Operable Unit 1  
**DEC Site #:** V00481  
**Address:** W. Utica St.  
Oswego, NY 13126

Have questions?  
See  
"who to contact"  
below

### **Public Comment Sought for Proposed Amended Environmental Cleanup Plan Oswego West Utica Street Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site**

**Comment period August 8, 2016 through September 7, 2016**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has released for comment a proposed amended Decision Document that addresses the forthcoming remediation of the West Utica Street Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site. The site is located on West Utica Street between West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and West 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **How to Comment**

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy modification for 30 days, from August 8, 2016 through September 7, 2016. The proposed remedy modification is available for public review at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

#### **Proposed Remedy Modification**

The original remedy selected in the 2013 Decision Document called for the excavation and removal of soil impacted by coal tar. Under the proposed remedy, tar-contaminated soil in three source areas will be removed to a depth of four feet, followed by solidification in place (in-situ solidification), as explained further in the second paragraph below.

The largest source area (see Figure 2) extends under the parking lots of the Lakeside Heart Center and City Electric, between a depth of 5 and 22 feet. Under the current remedy, soil impacted by coal tar would be removed, creating an open excavation which would and then backfilled. Groundwater would be pumped from the excavation to facilitate backfilling. The groundwater would be treated through a temporary treatment system located on-site. Removal of the impacted soil and delivery of the backfill would be accomplished using trucks routed over local streets.

Under the proposed amendment to the Decision Document, Portland cement would be mixed into the impacted soil by rotating augers or a similar method, instead of a soil excavation. The mixing is referred to as in-situ solidification. The cement would encapsulate the tar, and eliminate the groundwater flow through the soil, and thus prevent the underground spread of coal tar. The quantity of cement added is calculated to provide a sufficient amount to prevent groundwater flow yet still allow a soil-like consistency; no concrete is formed. Substantially fewer trucks would be needed for the solidification method, as there is less removal and disposal of soil and less backfill needed. In addition, no significant amount of groundwater would be pumped. A temporary storage area for the cement would be needed. The two smaller coal tar impacted areas would also be addressed through in-situ solidification under the proposed amended remedy.

## **Background**

The Oswego West Utica Street Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) was one of about 275 MGPs that operated across New York State in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The MGP Site was operated by a predecessor to National Grid from the 1850s to the 1930s. Gas was manufactured by heating coal. Freshly-manufactured gas had to be cooled and its impurities removed before it could be used. A coal tar resulted from these processes, some of which was released to the environment. Coal tar contains a number of chemical contaminants, primarily benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene (BTEX) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The extent of MGP impacts was found through a series of investigations conducted by National Grid. MGP impacts were found in soil and groundwater underlying the former MGP site. MGP contaminants have also migrated off-site. The off-site impacts will be addressed in the future under a separate Decision Document.

The former MGP Site is currently zoned for commercial use and is occupied by several small businesses including an electrical supply store, an auto repair shop, a medical office and a dialysis clinic. Paved parking areas occupy the remainder of the flat 1.2 acre site.

As most of the site is covered with buildings, pavement or vegetation, 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.

## **Why the Proposed Remedy Modification**

The NYSDEC is proposing the remedy modification for the following reasons:

- The excavation that would be created through the original remedy poses a greater risk to

the integrity and stability of the City Electric building foundation as compared to the proposed mixing operation. Also, the proposed mixing would eliminate the use of shoring, a temporary wall that would be required under the current remedy. The initial installation of shoring may also be detrimental to the building foundation.

- The site has active businesses with parking space limitations. The proposed solidification method will significantly reduce the number of trucks moving into and out of the site. The parking space taken up for groundwater treatment would be reduced using the solidification remedy.
- The implementation time for in-situ solidification would be shorter than that of excavation.
- With fewer heavy trucks and a shorter construction schedule, the impact to adjacent businesses and the surrounding community, such as noise, construction traffic and the potential for dust, would be less for in-situ solidification as compared to soil removal.

### **Other Remedy Components**

There are other aspects of the site cleanup that will remain unaltered by the Amendment.

These include:

- A site cover consisting of either pavement or clean soil.
- Installation of wells which will allow for observation and removal of accumulated coal tar in the subsurface.
- Placement of an environmental easement to restrict land use to commercial or industrial uses and prohibit the use of groundwater. Currently the site is supplied by a municipal water supply; groundwater is not used. The site currently consists of commercial properties.
- Development and implementation of a site management plan.

### **What's Next**

NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and issue a final Amended Decision Document. National Grid is remediating the site as a participant in NYSDEC's Voluntary Cleanup Program. National Grid may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health.

### **Where to Find Information**

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

August 2016

Oswego Public Library  
120 E 2nd St  
Oswego, NY 13126  
phone: (315) 341-5867

NYSDEC  
Attn: John Spellman  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233  
phone: (518) 402-9662

Who to contact

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

Project Related Questions

John Spellman  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
(518) 402-9686  
john.spellman@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Richard Jones  
New York State Department of Health  
217 S. Salina St.  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 477-8148  
BEEI@health.ny.gov

**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.**

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=V00481>

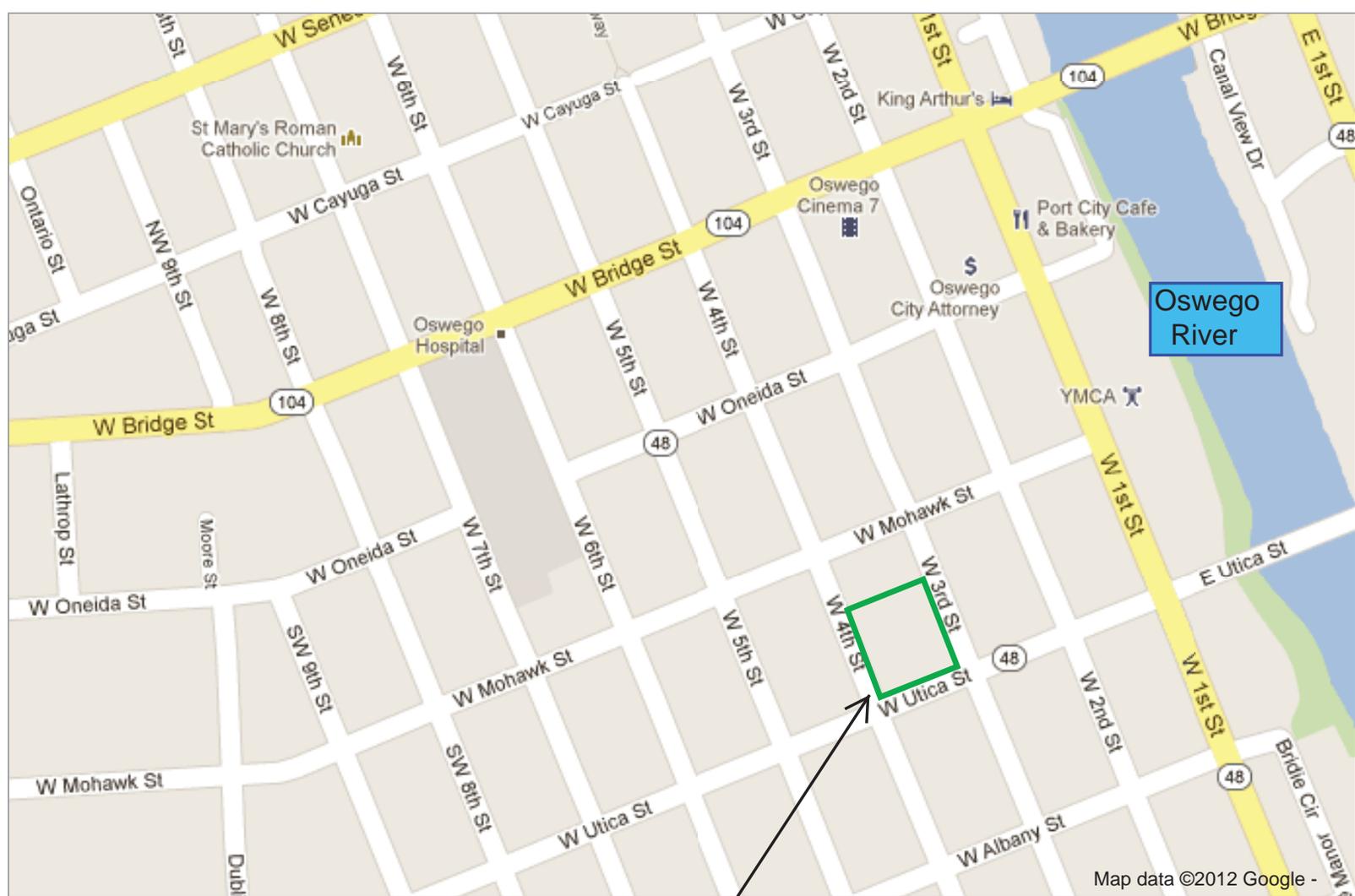
**Voluntary Cleanup Program:** New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) was developed to encourage private sector volunteers to investigate and clean up contaminated properties and return these sites to productive use. Once cleaned up, the properties may be redeveloped for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

For more information about the VCP, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8442.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 available at the following web page: <http://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.



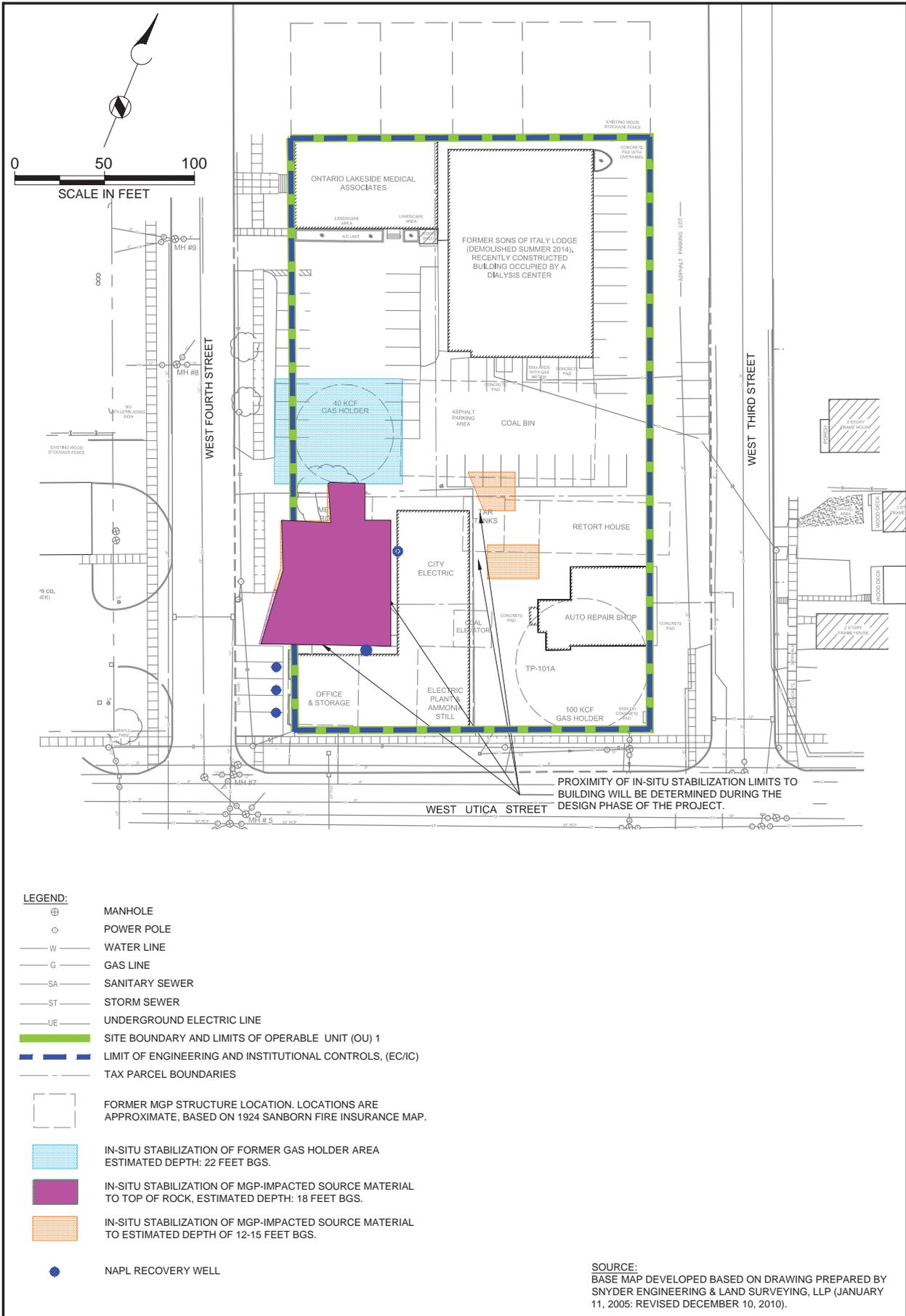
Site Location

approx 300 ft

North



Figure 1 Site Location  
Oswego (W. Utica St.) Former MGP Site  
West Utica St. at West 3rd St.  
City of Oswego NY



SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 JOB NUMBER: 146991  
 DATE: February 29, 2016

REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN  
 NATIONAL GRID  
 OSWEGO (WEST UTICA ST.) FORMER MGP SITE  
 OPERABLE UNIT (OU) 1  
 OSWEGO, NEW YORK

FIGURE  
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