

# **FACT SHEET**

Central Hudson Newburgh MGP Site Site Number 3-36-042 Newburgh, NY December 2009

# "Remedial Construction Underway Areas B &C of the Central Hudson Newburgh MGP Site"

Central Hudson has begun site preparation work to remediate soils and sediments contaminated with coal tar at the Central Hudson Newburgh Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site ("site") located at Water Street in Newburgh, Orange County. The NYSDEC-approved Remedial Design Report for this project is available for public review at the document repositories listed below. See attached map for site location. The property is currently owned and operated by the City of Newburgh as the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Site preparation and equipment mobilization began in November 2009. Cleanup activities are expected to begin during the first quarter of 2010, and are anticipated to be completed late in 2011. The cleanup activities include; installation of a subsurface barrier wall and collection trench; dredging of Hudson River sediments and site restoration. Central Hudson (the "responsible party") has hired a qualified contractor to perform the cleanup activities with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

### **Highlights of the Cleanup Activities:**

The goal of the cleanup activities for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the clean-up activities include:

- Mobilization and Site Setup: The contractor began mobilizing heavy equipment and supplies to the site in November. The contractor will set up construction access roads within the site, equipment and material storage and staging areas, a temporary enclosed structure for handling contaminated soil and sediment, a portable water treatment plant, air monitoring equipment, and office trailers.
- Barrier Wall and Collection System Installation: The contractor will install a subsurface barrier wall and collection trench along the Hudson River shoreline. The barrier wall and collection system will serve to intercept and collect coal tar, currently found in soils beneath the WWTP, before it can migrate further into the Hudson River. The barrier wall will be cut off below the ground surface to allow for clean, shallow groundwater to continue discharging into the Hudson River. A collection trench will be installed behind

the upland side of the wall to collect deeper coal tar that will build up behind the wall. The accumulated coal tar will be periodically pumped out and transported to a licensed disposal facility.

- Sediment Dredging and Handling: The contractor will dredge coal tar-impacted sediments from the Hudson River in two separate areas, referred to as the near-shore and far-shore dredge areas. The near-shore dredge area consists of sediments impacted by coal tar and will be surrounded by a temporary steel containment wall while dredging is underway. Near shore sediments will be dredged to depths ranging from 2 to 21 feet below sediment surface (bss). The far-shore dredge area consists of less-impacted sediments that will be surrounded by silt curtain containment cells. Far-shore sediments will be dredged to a depth of 2-feet bss. Water quality monitoring and sampling will be conducted. The dredged sediment will be dewatered and staged onsite in an enclosed structure before transportation to a licensed disposal facility.
- <u>Site Restoration and Demobilization</u>: At the conclusion of the dredging, the river bottom will be backfilled to original elevation with clean fill; all disturbed areas will be restored. Equipment used during the cleanup will be decontaminated prior to removal from the site. The shoreline will be restored with plantings typical of this area of New York.
- Health and Safety: Safety concerns are of utmost importance. During construction, a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented to ensure that community and on-site workers are not exposed to site-related contaminants. Furthermore, a site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) has been developed to identify the potential hazards at the site and prescribe the minimum protective measures necessary to control those hazards. The HASP also defines emergency procedures that must be followed. A Traffic Control Plan was developed and it is not anticipated that the material transport will have adverse impacts to local traffic.

#### **Next Steps**

Central Hudson, with NYSDEC oversight, has begun the site setup and equipment mobilization activities. Contaminated soil and sediment removal is expected to begin early in 2010. All site activities are anticipated to be completed late in 2011.

After completing the site restoration and demobilization activities, Central Hudson will prepare a Construction Completion Report. The Construction Completion Report will describe the cleanup activities and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site.

# **Background**

In 1995, Central Hudson entered into an Order on Consent with the NYSDEC. The order requires Central Hudson to investigate and remediate contamination associated with the Newburgh MGP. The City of Newburgh is a party to this order, and has remained active in the investigation and remedial design of the site. Between 1996 and 2008, a number of geotechnical

and environmental investigations were conducted at the site. These investigations determined that coal tar, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX), are the primary constituents of concern (COCs) at the site. Based on a Feasibility Study completed for the former MGP site, NYSDEC issued its Record of Decision (ROD) for the site in December 2005. The ROD describes the selected remedy, including what cleanup work will be done in each of the three areas: Area A, Area B, and Area C (see map). An environmental cleanup was completed at Area A, the site of the original gas plant, in 2007.

Brief History of the Former Newburgh MGP: The MGP operation began in 1876 under the name Consumers Gas Company. After a series of consolidations and mergers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the plant came under the control of Central Hudson. The MGP expanded several times, reaching its maximum size and production capacity in approximately 1910. It was placed on standby status in 1929 and demolished in 1951. The actual MGP was located up gradient from the area where this cleanup is taking place. During MGP operation, an oily liquid byproduct, common known as coal tar, was generated. The coal tar is believed to have leaked from the MGP structures and migrated into the subsurface. Over time, the coal tar has migrated easterly beneath the ground surface toward the Hudson River. Coal tar was also believed to have been discharged directly into the Hudson River via a sewer outfall, during the historical operation of the MGP.

The property where the cleanup is taking place was formerly occupied by several industries (e.g. sawmills; shipyards and shipbuilders; lumber dealers; and manufacturers of engines, boilers and general machinery), railroads, and roads. In 1926, the City of Newburgh purchased the northernmost portion of the property from the West Shore Railroad and New York Central Railroad Company. In 1963, an incinerator was built by the City of Newburgh and was operated until approximately 1976. The City of Newburgh built the Sewage Treatment Plant now at the site in the late 1960's.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the decision document describing the selected remedy for the site, called the "Record of Decision" and the Remedial Design Report for Areas B & C.

Newburgh Free Library 124 Grand Street Newburgh, NY 12550 845-563-3601 M/Th 9-9; T/W/Sat 9-5; Closed Sun Michael J. Knipfing NYSDEC 21 South Putt Corners Road New Paltz, New York 12561 845-256-3154 M-F 9 am – 4 pm By appointment only

#### **Who to Contact**

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

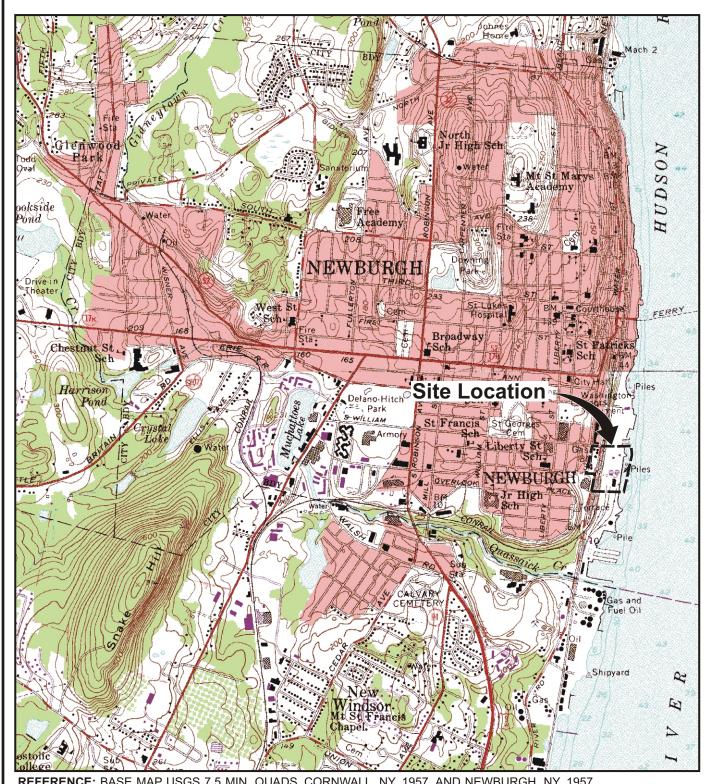
Project Related Questions
NYSDEC Project Manager
Lisa Gorton (Area C)
Elizabeth Lukowski (Areas A and B)
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(866) 520-2334
lagorton@gw.dec.state.ny.us

eblukows@gw.dec.state.ny.us

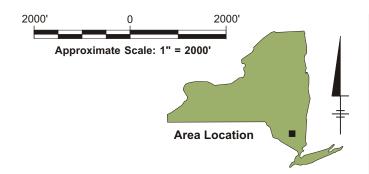
Site-Related Health Questions NYSDOH Project Manager Kristin Kulow New York State Department of Health 28 Hill Street, Suite 201 Oneonta, NY 13820 607-432-3911

Site-related emergencies or concerns can be reported 24-hour messaging service at 845-563-4509.

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager 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.



REFERENCE: BASE MAP USGS 7.5 MIN. QUADS., CORNWALL, NY, 1957, AND NEWBURGH, NY, 1957.



CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION NEWBURGH, NEW YORK AREAS B AND C

FINAL REMEDIAL DESIGN REPORT

SITE LOCATION MAP



**FIGURE** 1-1

