



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/442057/>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/V00488/>

*(\*Repositories are temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions. If you cannot access the online repository, please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed below for assistance)*

Rensselaer City Library  
676 East St.  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
(518) 462-1193

## Who to Contact

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

### Project-Related Questions

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### Project-Related Health Questions

Eamonn O'Neil  
NYSDOH  
Bureau of Env. Exposure Inv.  
ESP Corning Tower, Room 1787  
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[beci@health.ny.gov](mailto:beci@health.ny.gov)

For more information about New York's  
Manufactured Gas Plant Program, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html)

# FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP)  
Program

NM Rensselaer MGP Site  
89 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

SITE No. 442057  
NYSDEC REGION 4

JUNE 2021

## Cleanup Action to Begin at Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the NM-Rensselaer Former MGP site ("site") located at 89 Washington Street, in the city and county of Rensselaer, under New York's Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Program. Please see the map for the site location. Cleanup activities will be performed by National Grid with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Remedial activities are expected to begin in July 2021, and last approximately two months. The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$1.75 million.

**Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities:** The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the remedy are:

- Excavation and appropriate disposal off-site of approximately 1,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil associated with the past manufactured gas plant operations at the site.
- Construction of a cover system consisting of (1) structures such as buildings, pavement, sidewalks comprising the site development or the existing asphalt pavement, and/or (2) a soil cover in areas where the upper two feet of exposed surface soil will exceed the applicable restricted residential soil cleanup objectives (SCOs). Where the soil cover is required it will be a minimum of two feet of soil, meeting the SCOs for restricted residential use.
- Development and implementation of a site management plan which will detail the soil handling procedures in the event of any future excavations and define a long-term groundwater monitoring program.
- Establishment of an environmental easement that will limit use of the property to restricted residential, commercial and industrial uses consistent with local zoning; restrict the use of site groundwater and require compliance with the site management plan.

# MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented during remediation activities. The HASP and CAMP establish procedures to protect on-site workers and residents and includes required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

**Next Steps:** After cleanup activities are completed, National Grid will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER). The FER will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

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

**Site Description:** The former MGP site is located at 89 Washington Street in the City of Rensselaer. The 0.3-acre site is currently a parking lot in an area zoned for downtown mixed commercial and residential use. Huyck Square is located approximately 200 feet north of the site. Surrounding areas include residences and an office building.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 442057) at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

**Summary of the Investigation:** Coal tar was found within certain subsurface remnant structures of the gas plant, located under the current parking lot. Coal tar was also observed in subsurface soils on the site and, to a lesser extent, in the subsurface soil at properties north and east of the site. The primary contaminants of concern, which are commonly associated with coal tar, are benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene (also known as BTEX), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. BTEX compounds were also detected in site groundwater.

**MGP Program Overview:** New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. Sites where contamination has been released to the

environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

The gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network. The gas was used for heating and cooking much like natural gas is used today. In the early years of gas manufacture, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights. A dense, oily liquid known as coal tar would condense out of the gas at various stages during its production, purification and distribution, and, through leaks or intentional discharge, be released to the subsurface.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

The Rensselaer former MGP operated from approximately 1876 to 1925, by predecessor companies to Niagara Mohawk, doing business as National Grid.

For more information about the MGPs, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>

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*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.*

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### Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

### DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

# MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

Site Location Map



# MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

## Selected Remedy

