

**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION**

This Fact Sheet contains information about the Remedial Action at the Saranac Street MGP site in the City of Plattsburgh, N.Y. If you have any questions on the the Remedial Action, please contact:

**Mr. Lech Dolata  
Project Manager  
NYSDEC**

625 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
**(518) 402-9662**

For Citizen Participation  
questions, contact:

**Mr. David Winchell  
Citizen Participation Specialist  
NYSDEC, Region 5 Office  
1115 State Route 86, PO Box 296  
Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296  
(518) 897-1200**

For site-related health questions,  
please contact:

**Ms. Wendy Kuehner, PE  
Sanitary Engineer  
NYSDOH  
Flanigan Square  
Room 300, 547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180-2216  
1-(800)-458-1158 ext.27870 or  
(518) 402-7870**

For site related questions, please  
contact:

**Mr. Bert W. Finch  
Project Manager  
NYSEG  
607-762-8683**

# FACT SHEET

## SARANAC STREET MGP SITE

**Site No. 5-10-007  
JANUARY 2007**

### REMEDIAL ACTION

The New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG) has begun preparation work for removal of soils contaminated with coal tar from the western portion of the former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site on Saranac Street in the City of Plattsburgh.

The remedial action includes the following work:

- Containing a band of slightly contaminated soil along the perimeter of the former lagoon with a mix of cement, bentonite and natural soil known as "soilcrete". This will sufficiently prevent contamination from migrating to other areas.
- Excavating contaminated soil from inside the contained perimeter of the lagoon.
- Excavating contaminated sediments from the Saranac River that were deposited near the Broad Street Bridge.
- Excavating all contaminated sediments in and on the banks of the Saranac River that are responsible for causing sheens.
- Removing all soils and sediments with high levels of contamination and disposing off-site.
- Separating soils and deposits with low level of contamination and depositing on site in an area covered with two-feet of clean soil, seeded and surrounded by a barrier.
- Installing at least two bedrock tar collection wells.

The site location and study area are shown on the attached Figure 1.

### SITE BACKGROUND

Gas was manufactured at the Saranac Street site from 1896 until 1944 by the Plattsburgh Light, Heat and Power Company and then until 1960 by NYSEG. Manufactured gas was produced by heating coal and other petroleum products in the presence of steam. The gas was used by local businesses and residents for lighting, cooking, heating and other purposes.

Byproducts of the manufactured gas process often remained at former manufactured gas plant sites when plants were closed. These byproducts can include coal tar, purifier wastes and coal ash.

NYSEG began investigating this site in 1976. Work in the 1980s included construction of a soil/bentonite slurry containment barrier around the former coal tar lagoon, construction of a slurry wall adjacent to the Saranac River and removal of river sediments affected by coal tar.

NYSEG installed a groundwater treatment facility in 1987, and since then NYSEG has been actively managing the site. NYSDEC and NYSEG entered into a multi-site Consent Order in 1994, which included the Saranac Street MGP site.

NYSEG completed an interim remedial measure project in 2002 that involved the excavation and off-site disposal of coal tar soil on the east side of Saranac Street. The entire plant area was excavated to a depth of at least 4 feet, and gas holder foundations, piping and other remnants of the manufactured gas plant were removed.

## **PROGRESS OF WORK**

NYSEG contractors began the current phase of the remedial action in November 2006 on and around Caroline Street. Contractors are now replacing the existing 21-inch sanitary sewer line that crosses the site with a new 24-inch sanitary sewer line that will skirt the area that will be excavated.

In early January, for approximately 15 days, a NYSEG contractor will be blasting bedrock where the new sewer line will be installed. The blasting will be performed in safe manner, with all applicable safety precautions, including deploying safety mats to control the release of debris.

A barrier will be constructed around the entire perimeter of the area of excavation. This barrier will control groundwater movement in and out of the excavation area and stabilize the sidewalls of the excavation.

Work will take place Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. All soils saturated with coal tar will be removed from the site and thermally treated at off-site permitted facilities. Removal of soil and other material affected by the former manufactured gas plant is expected to be completed in 2008.

All work is being performed in accordance with a work plan developed by NYSEG and approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The health and safety plan which is implemented at the site was reviewed by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and DEC. Air monitoring along the perimeter of the site is being conducted and will continue through the duration of the remedial action to ensure public safety.

Clean up work in the Saranac River is scheduled for 2008, but may begin sooner depending on progress of work at the MGP site and weather conditions. Three specific areas of the river will be excavated in the river and all work will be performed behind cofferdams designed to keep work areas dry. NYSEG will continue investigating sediments downstream in the Saranac River and Cumberland Bay, under the work plan for Operable Unit No. 2.

Following completion of the clean-up work, the site will be covered with two feet of clean soil and seeded.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, contact project personnel listed in the box on the other side of this Fact Sheet or visit the document repositories listed below.

### **Plattsburgh Public Library**

19 Oak Street  
Plattsburgh, NY  
(518) 563-0921

### **NYSDEC**

Contact: Lech Dolata  
625 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
(518) 402-9662

Russell Huyck, PE  
NYSDEC Region 5  
Ray Brook NY 12977  
(518) 897 1242