

**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:

**NYSDEC Site Trailer
518-561-2138**

**Mr. Lech Dolata
Project Manager
NYSDEC**

625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518) 402-9662

For Citizen Participation
questions, contact:

**Mr. David Winchell
Citizen Participation Specialist
NYSDEC, Region 5 Office
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For site-related health questions,
please contact:

**Ms. Wendy Kuehner, PE
Sanitary Engineer
NYSDOH
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For site related questions, please
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**Mr. Bert W. Finch
Project Manager
NYSEG
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FACT SHEET

SARANAC STREET MGP SITE

Site No. 5-10-007

July 2007

Approval of Enhanced Odor Control Plan Removal of contaminated Saranac River sediment is planned for August 2007

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has approved an Enhanced Odor Control Plan developed by New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG). Remedial work ceased at the Saranac Street Former MGP site in May 2007, due to odor problems. DEC required an Enhanced Odor Control Plan be developed before remedial work could begin again.

The approved plan provides additional protections to the local community against odor-causing vapors that are released during excavation and handling of manufactured gas plant (MGP) waste. In addition to the existing odor control measures, the Enhanced Odor Control Plan requires installing activated carbon filters in the local school building, installing an odor neutralizing system at the waste handling area, frequent checks of air quality, as described below under Community Protection, and improved communication with City officials and Emergency Services in City of Plattsburgh. Also, NYSEG has provided a full-time answering service to handle telephone calls made to the NYSDEC site trailer (see phone number above). This service will forward the caller's name and contact information to the NYSDEC's on-site representative or project manager for a prompt response. The Enhanced Odor Control Plan will be implemented immediately.

REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

In May 2007, NYSEG's contractor stopped excavating in areas known to contain MGP waste because of the amount of odors the work created.

54 activated carbon air filters, capable of filtering out volatile substances that cause odors, were installed on the Stafford

Middle School air handling system in May 2007. These filters are changed on a monthly basis to ensure their effectiveness.

Since the May shutdown, NYSEG had continued to install 24 inch storm sewer and pavement within Caroline Street, in areas where MGP waste was not found during the preliminary investigation - that work is nearly complete.

Under the approved Enhanced Odor Control Plan, NYSEG can now begin removing lightly contaminated soil outside of the lagoon area. Removal of material from the former lagoon area - where contaminant levels are highest - will start when the air temperature drops to 50° F or cooler. The lagoon excavation work is expected to resume in October 2007.

NYSEG will also begin removing MGP contaminated sediments from the Saranac River. A portable coffer dam system will be used to block off part of the river and provide dry working conditions for sediment removal. Contaminated river sediments near the Wooden Bridge will be the first to be removed (see the attached map). In an effort to protect fish populations, work in the river must be completed by the end of September 2007. The remaining part of the Saranac River upstream of the Kennedy Bridge is scheduled for cleanup in 2008.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

Air quality will be monitored at four locations whenever the contractors are working: at the point of work, and in one upwind location and two downwind locations along the perimeter of the site. The approved Enhanced Odor Control Plan requires that two additional air monitoring stations be added at the Stafford Middle School. One air monitoring station will be located at the main school's main air intake. The second station will be located at the soccer field.

Air monitoring stations measure the concentration of particulates (dust particles) in the air, and the concentration of vapors. The stations are equipped with alarms that will trigger at contamination levels below the specific action levels for this site. This will enable the site manager to take steps to lower levels of contaminants in the air before action levels are reached. Steps taken in response to the alarm could include applying odor control sprays and foam, adjusting excavating and soil handling operations, or shutting down vapor and odor-generating activities until contaminant levels are reduced.

The contaminated soil excavated from the Saranac Street site, as is characteristic of MGP waste, exhibits an odor that is similar to coal tar based driveway sealer. The odor threshold for this type of waste is much lower than the action levels. However, the Enhanced Odor Control Plan requires that corrective actions be taken if odors are present, whether action levels have been reached or not.

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 sites after manufactured gas plants were closed. These byproducts can include coal tar, purifier wastes and coal ash.

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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 next 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 cleanup of 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 from 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.

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

NYSEG will continue to investigate sediments downstream in the Saranac River and Cumberland Bay, under a separate work plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Plattsburgh Public Library

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NYSDEC

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For more information about DEC's MGP cleanup program, please visit our web site at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>