



# FACT SHEET

## Manufactured Gas Plant Program

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Ilion Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site  
Site No. 622019  
Village of Ilion, Herkimer County, New York

February 2011

### **Remedy Proposed for Former Manufactured Gas Plant; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced**

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address contamination related to the Niagara Mohawk – Ilion Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site. The site is located at 1 East Street in the Village of Ilion, Herkimer County, New York. See map for site location.

#### **The Proposed Remedy**

The remedy proposed for the site includes excavating soils both on and off the site that contain significant levels of contamination and applying a one foot soil cover to the eastern portion of the site.

The proposed remedy is described in a draft cleanup plan called a “Proposed Remedial Action Plan” developed under the New York State MGP Program. The document is available for public review at the location identified below under “Where to Find Information”. The document also is available on the NYSDEC web site at [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37560.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37560.html).

**Public Meeting**  
February 17, 2011 - Thursday  
7:00 PM

**The Village of Ilion  
Municipal Building Auditorium  
49 Morgan ST.  
Ilion, NY 13357**

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

#### **About the Manufactured Gas Plant Program:**

NYSDEC has one of the most aggressive Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Programs site investigation and remediation programs in the country. Since the problems associated with the former MGP sites were identified, NYSDEC has been working with all the utilities on a state-wide basis to identify and address the issue of MGP sites for which they may have responsibility. This effort has resulted in approximately 235 sites identified for action by the eight utilities operating in New York State.

Currently we have multi-site orders or agreements with six utilities, including NYSEG, and several other individual site volunteers, to address 222 MGP sites in NYS. Multi-site agreements are under negotiation with a seventh utility and several other responsible parties which have newly-identified sites.

NYSDEC continues to seek to identify any other possible MGP sites throughout the State.

For more information about the NYSDEC's MGP program, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html)

#### **How to Comment**

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy for 30 days, from **February 10, 2011** through **March 12, 2011**.

Submit written comments to:

Attn: Mr. Bernard Franklin  
New York State Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
Phone: (866) 520-2334  
bcfrankl@gw.dec.state.ny.us

#### **Health Issues**

Based on the remedial investigation conducted at the site, there is no evidence of a complete exposure pathway. Exposure pathways are means through which people may be exposed to site-related contaminants. Chemicals can enter the body through three major pathways (breathing, touching or swallowing). This is referred to as *exposure*.

People are not drinking the contaminated groundwater because the area is served by a public water supply that obtains its water from a different source. Also, they are not coming into contact with the groundwater unless they dig soil into ground water level located approximately 5 to 15 feet from the ground surface. The site is completely fenced, which restricts public access.

#### **Summary of the Proposed Remedy**

The proposed remedy represents the alternative preferred by NYSDEC, NYSDOH and National Grid to address site impacts. The draft cleanup plan includes:

- The excavation of MGP source material, both on and off the site, defined by soil containing visible tar, greater than 500 ppm total MGP-related polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs) or cyanide concentrations greater than 40 ppm. The volume of this excavation is currently estimated to be 5,460 cubic yards, both on and off the site.
- A one-foot soil cover will be placed over backfilled excavations and over on-site soils with contaminant concentrations that do not exceed the soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) for commercial use, which occur over the eastern portion of the site. Off-site excavations will be backfilled and covered with at least two feet of soil meeting the residential SCOs.
- The environmental easement will restrict the use of the site to commercial use, require compliance with the site management plan, and require National Grid to periodically certify that the institutional controls are still effective.
- The site management plan will identify requirements for intrusive activities in the project area, handling and disposal of potentially contaminated materials that may be encountered during subsurface activities, notifications and reporting. The plan will also require an evaluation and

mitigation of the potential for vapor intrusion for any buildings that may be developed on the site.

- This alternative will require approximately 6 months to design and 6 months to implement.
- The estimated cost is \$5,300,000 of which \$4,960,000 is the estimated cost of construction. The remainder of the cost is associated with long term monitoring and maintenance. National Grid will be financially responsible for implementation of the remedy.

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives to address MGP impacts, called a “Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study”. Other alternatives presented in the Feasibility Study include no action, Site Management and removal of contaminated soil to varying degrees. The proposed remedy would achieve the remediation goals for the site by permanently removing contaminated soil from the on-site and specified off-site areas. The proposed remedy would greatly reduce the source of MGP impacts to groundwater, and it would create the conditions needed to restore groundwater quality to the extent possible.

### **Next Steps**

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a “Record of Decision” that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. This document will be made available to the public (see “Where to Find Information” below).

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

### **Background**

The Ilion Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site is a 1.3-acre L-shaped parcel located at 1 East Street in a mixed commercial/residential part of the Village of Ilion, Herkimer County, New York. The site is bounded by East Clark Street and residential properties to the north, East Street to the east, State Street (formerly Canal Street) to the south, and a commercial property and several residences to the west. State Street overlies the location of the former Erie Canal. An automobile dealer, auto service garage and a gasoline station are located to the south and southwest of the site.

The primary contaminants of concern at the site include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (collectively referred to as BTEX), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and cyanide. The principal waste product produced at the former MGP site was coal tar, which is an oily, dark colored liquid. Coal tar is referred to as a dense non-aqueous phase liquid or DNAPL since it is slightly heavier than water and will not readily dissolve in water.

The Ilion site was the location of a former gas manufacturing plant from the 1870s through 1912. Subsequently, the site was used for various utility operations (including gas storage and distribution), electrical substation applications, and as a service center. Between 1995 and 1997, Niagara Mohawk (National Grid Co.) conducted a Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA), which involved test trenching; monitoring well installation; and groundwater and soil sampling.

## **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 proposed cleanup plan for the site, called the “Proposed Remedial Action Plan”.

Ilion Free Public Library  
78 West Street  
Ilion, NY 13357  
Phone: (315)-894-5028  
M,T,T 10am-8pm  
W,T 10am-6pm  
S 10am-1pm

### Who to Contact

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

#### Project Related Questions

Mr. Bernard Franklin  
New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7014  
Phone: (866) 520-2334  
bcfrankl@gw.dec.state.ny.us

#### Site-Related Health Questions

Nathan T. Freeman  
New York State Department of Health  
Public Health Specialist  
Bureau of Environmental Exposure  
Investigation  
547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180-2216  
Phone: 518-402-7860  
ntf01@health.state.ny.us

**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.**

#### **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: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](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.

You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

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