



**PUBLIC MEETING DATE
AND LOCATION:**

March 16, 2009 7:00 pm

Rome City Hall

Common Council Meeting Room

198 North Washington Street

Rome, New York

Public Comment Period

February 27, 2009 through

March 29, 2009

Send Written

Comments to:

Charles Post

Project Manager

NYSDEC Central Office

625 Broadway, 11th Floor

Albany, NY 12233-7014

Stephen Litwhiler

NYSDEC Region 6

317 Washington St.

Watertown, NY 13601

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NYSDOH

Flanigan Square, 547 River Street

Troy, NY 12180-2216

Local Document Repositories:

Jervis Public Library,

613 North Washington St.

Rome, NY 13440 315.336.4570

Mon - Thurs 9:30 am- 8:30 pm

Fri 9:30am - 5:30pm

Saturday 9:30am - 5:00pm

NYSDEC Region 6

Dulles State Office Building

317 Washington Street

Watertown, New York 13204

Contact: Stephen Litwhiler

Phone: (315) 785-2252

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Remedial Actions Proposed for the NM Rome - Kingsley Avenue Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site Site No. 633043 Operable Unit No. 2

Public Comment Period, Meeting Announced

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is proposing remedial actions to address contamination relating to the NM Rome - Kingsley Avenue Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site Operable Unit No.2. This site is located on the National Grid (formerly Niagara Mohawk) Kingsley Avenue property in Rome, New York. The NYSDEC is sending this public notice to announce the release of the proposed cleanup plan for the site, and to invite you to a public meeting to discuss the plan. The meeting will present the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for remediating the impacts of contamination in soil and groundwater at certain off-site areas. The NYSDEC will present the alternatives that were evaluated to address this contamination, along with the rationale for recommending the proposed remedy. The PRAP will be available for public review at the repositories listed on this fact sheet beginning February 27, 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed remedy includes collection of MGP tar in the soil with off site disposal of MGP-contaminated waste. The site would also be subject to a site management plan, which would describe the requirements for managing soil that may be excavated during future development activities and provide for the operation, maintenance and monitoring of the remedy.

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PLAN

In addition to any comments received at the public meeting on Tuesday March 16, 2009 at 7:00 PM, written comments may be submitted to Mr. Charles Post at the address shown on this notice. The comment period for the PRAP begins on February 27, 2009. To be considered in the selection of the final remedy, comments must be postmarked by March 29, 2009.

**Additional Document
Repository:**

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
Central Office
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233

Contact Charles Post
for an appointment
Mon-Fri: 8:15-4:30
(866) 520-2334

SITE LOCATION

The NM Rome - Kingsley Avenue Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site is located in the City of Rome, Oneida County (see attached figure). The former MGP location, which is owned by National Grid, is approximately 14 acres in size and has been designated Operable Unit No.1 (OU1). A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the NYSDEC in 2002 that selected a remedy for OU1. Currently, the OU1 remedial activities are being performed under a three-year phased construction schedule. Phase 1 included the relocation of utilities, excavation of three small area of contamination, and the construction of access roads for future work. Phase 2 included the excavation of the major source areas. Construction of Phases 1 and 2 are now complete. Phase 3 construction will include the installation of the sheet-pile containment wall and is scheduled to begin 2009.

Manufactured gas plant operations formerly covered the northern half of the site. National Grid currently operates a natural gas regulator station on the northern parcel. The southern portion of the site is the location of two National Grid electric substations and a service building.

OU2, the subject of this proposed remedy, consists of a limited area of shore along the Mohawk River, an offsite area extending beneath the Mohawk River, and the western bank of the Mohawk River to East Whitesboro Street. OU2 encompasses approximately 20 acres of land.

SITE BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

A manufactured gas plant (MGP) was a facility where gas for lighting and heating homes and businesses was produced from coal. Gas production at the Kingsley Avenue MGP began in 1917 and peaked in 1927. By 1930 production of gas at the Kingsley Avenue site was limited to emergency capacity, as the supply of gas for the City of Rome came from other MGPs. Between 1938 and 1941 the retort house and relief holder were decommissioned, and by 1949 gas manufacturing equipment had been removed from the central building. In 1959 the main gas holder was dismantled.

In December 1992 Niagara Mohawk entered into an Order on Consent with the NYSDEC that required the investigation and, where necessary, remediation of 21 Former MGP sites, including the Rome - Kingsley Avenue Site. The Order obligates the responsible party to implement a full remedial program.

Information on the NYSDEC's Manufactured Gas Plant program can be found at NYSDEC's web site:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

The remedial investigation (RI) took place from March 1999 to December 2008. The following provides a brief characterization of areas where site contaminants were detected in OU2:

- **Soil** - A byproduct of the manufactured gas process were found in the soil beneath the east bank of the Mohawk River. The byproduct is tar, an oily and/or tar-like material that is commonly found at former MGP sites. Tar waste was not identified west of the Mohawk River.
- **Shallow Groundwater** - Groundwater monitoring wells used to monitor the groundwater conditions east

and west of the Mohawk River. Tar was observed in two groundwater monitoring wells east of the river. Groundwater samples indicate that groundwater has been impacted east of the river and concentrations are only slightly above regulatory standards west of the river.

SITE-RELATED HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Samples from the Mohawk River were collected as part of the OU1 RI. The laboratory results did not indicate any impacts from the site. Therefore a viable exposure pathway to fish and wildlife is not present. These findings were addressed by the ROD for OU1.

Site contamination has also impacted the groundwater resource in the overburden soils. This groundwater is not a source of drinking water and current data supports that these levels are declining. Since public drinking water is supplied to the area exposures via drinking water are not expected.

No accessible soil contamination was detected west of the Mohawk River; therefore exposures related to soil are unlikely. An evaluation of the vapor intrusion pathway on the site perimeter indicates that soil vapor contamination is also not an exposure issue.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

A Feasibility Study (FS) was conducted to evaluate a range of cleanup alternatives for the soil and groundwater contamination identified in OU2. These alternatives include: 1) No action, 2) Groundwater monitoring and passive dense-nonaqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) collection with offsite DNAPL treatment and disposal, 3) In-situ enhanced aerobic biodegradation, groundwater monitoring, and passive DNAPL collection with offsite DNAPL treatment and disposal, 4) In-situ chemical oxidation, groundwater monitoring, and passive DNAPL collection with offsite DNAPL treatment and disposal.

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

The PRAP identifies the remedy preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to remediate the MGP contaminated soils and groundwater. The proposed alternative was identified following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives for remediating the contamination.

The elements of the proposed remedy include:

- A remedial design program would be implemented to provide the details necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the remedial program.
- The installation of approximately eight 4-inch tar recovery wells between the eastern edge of the Mohawk River and OU1. Periodic tar recovery would be performed by manual bailing, pumping, or similar method from each well observed to have a recoverable quantity of tar.
- Development of a site management plan which would include the following institutional and engineering controls: (a) monitoring of groundwater; and (b) provisions for the continued proper operation and maintenance of the components of the remedy.
- The operation of the components of the remedy would continue until the remedial objectives have been achieved, or until the Department determines that continued operation is technically impracticable or not feasible.

The cost of the proposed remedy for the site is estimated to be \$1.7 million, of which \$373,000 is the cost of construction. The remainder is the present worth of the periodic monitoring and maintenance cost, which is

estimated to be \$108,000 a year for the first 30 years.

A more detailed description of the site history, existing conditions and the proposed alternative, as well as other alternatives evaluated by the NYSDEC, can be found in the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) which is available at the document repositories listed below.

Repositories: The public is encouraged to review the PRAP, Remedial Investigation (RI) Report and Feasibility Study (FS) Report at the document repositories listed on the front page of this fact sheet. The PRAP will be available at each of the repositories beginning February 27, 2009.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The first page of this fact sheet describes the upcoming public meeting and public comment period on the remedy favored by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH. The NYSDEC may modify the preferred alternative or select another alternative based on new information or public comments. Comments will be summarized and addressed in the responsiveness summary section of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is the NYSDEC's final selection of the remedy for the site. When the ROD is issued, it will be placed in the repositories and a "Notice of ROD Availability" will be mailed to the site's public contact list.

For More Information: Call or write the following staff about:

Environmental Concerns:

Charles Post
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(866) 520-2334

Heath-Related Concerns:

Ian Ushe
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square, 547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(800) 458-1158 ext. 27872

Citizen Participation:

Stephen Litwhiler
NYSDEC Region 6
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY
(315) 785-2252

NOTE: In the event of severe weather conditions on March 16, 2009, the meeting will be held on March 18. Call the Toll Free phone number 866-520-2334 to determine if the meeting is being postponed due to severe weather.

