

FACT SHEET



Supplemental Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Homer Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

September, 1999

Introduction

Prior to the availability of natural gas, manufactured gas plants (MGP) produced a combustible gas by burning coal in specially designed ovens and capturing the released gas. That gas was cleaned, stored and distributed to homes and businesses that used it for lighting, heating, and cooking. By-products of the gas manufacturing process, including coal tar, often remained when the gas plants closed. NYSEG (New York State Electric & Gas Corporation) has been studying a former gas plant in Homer to determine if by-products are present, and if they are impacting human health or the environment. Additional study is required. Refer to the attached figure for a study area location map.

Site History

The Homer gas plant operated from 1857 until 1932, first using the water gas process, and later the carbureted water gas process. The Citizen Participation Plan for the project (referenced later in this fact sheet) provides detail on the gas making processes used. A Preliminary Site Survey was completed in 1985; an Indoor/Outdoor Air Sampling Report was completed in 1986; a Task 2 (Preliminary Field Investigation) Report was completed in 1987; a Task 3 (Expanded Field Investigation) Report was completed in 1989; and a Task 4 (Risk Assessment) Report was completed in 1991.

The previous Field Investigations answered many questions about the nature and extent of MGP contaminants. However, several data gaps exist, primarily associated with the Tioughnioga River. Additional information needs to be collected to determine if remedial action is required on the site or surrounding areas. A Supplemental Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (SRI/FS) has been proposed by NYSEG to gain information about areas not yet characterized (i.e. Tioughnioga River), and to collect additional information from areas already investigated to help ensure there are no adverse impacts to human health or the environment. Information collected during the proposed SRI, in conjunction with previously collected information, will help determine what type of remediation, if any, is necessary at the site or surrounding properties.

Supplemental Remedial Investigation Plan

The supplemental remedial investigation will include samples collected from soil, soil gas, indoor air, groundwater, river surface water, and river sediments, as well as a survey to determine if there are any private groundwater wells in the area. Heavy equipment (i.e. drill rig and backhoe) will be used to install groundwater monitoring wells

and collect soil samples. Field work will begin on October 4, 1999 and continue for about three weeks. All work will be performed under State oversight. Results and findings of the previous site investigations are available for review at:

Village of Homer Offices
31 N. Main Street
Homer, NY 13077
(607) 749-3322

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 7 Office
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204
Attn: Charles Branagh

Also available for review at this location are the work plan and the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) for the project. The CPP provides basic information about the site including the gas manufacturing process used and by-products of that process, a brief description of the investigation and feasibility study process, and a list of citizen participation activities planned for the project.

At the conclusion of the investigation phase of this project, NYSEG, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) will host a public meeting to present the findings of the SRI and all previous investigations at the site. The meeting date and location will be announced in a future fact sheet. The public will be invited to attend this meeting.

A mailing list of people or groups that may be impacted by or be interested in the project has been developed. Attached with this Fact Sheet is a "mailer" you can use to change your status on the mailing list or to add names you believe should be included.

For more information on the project, contact:

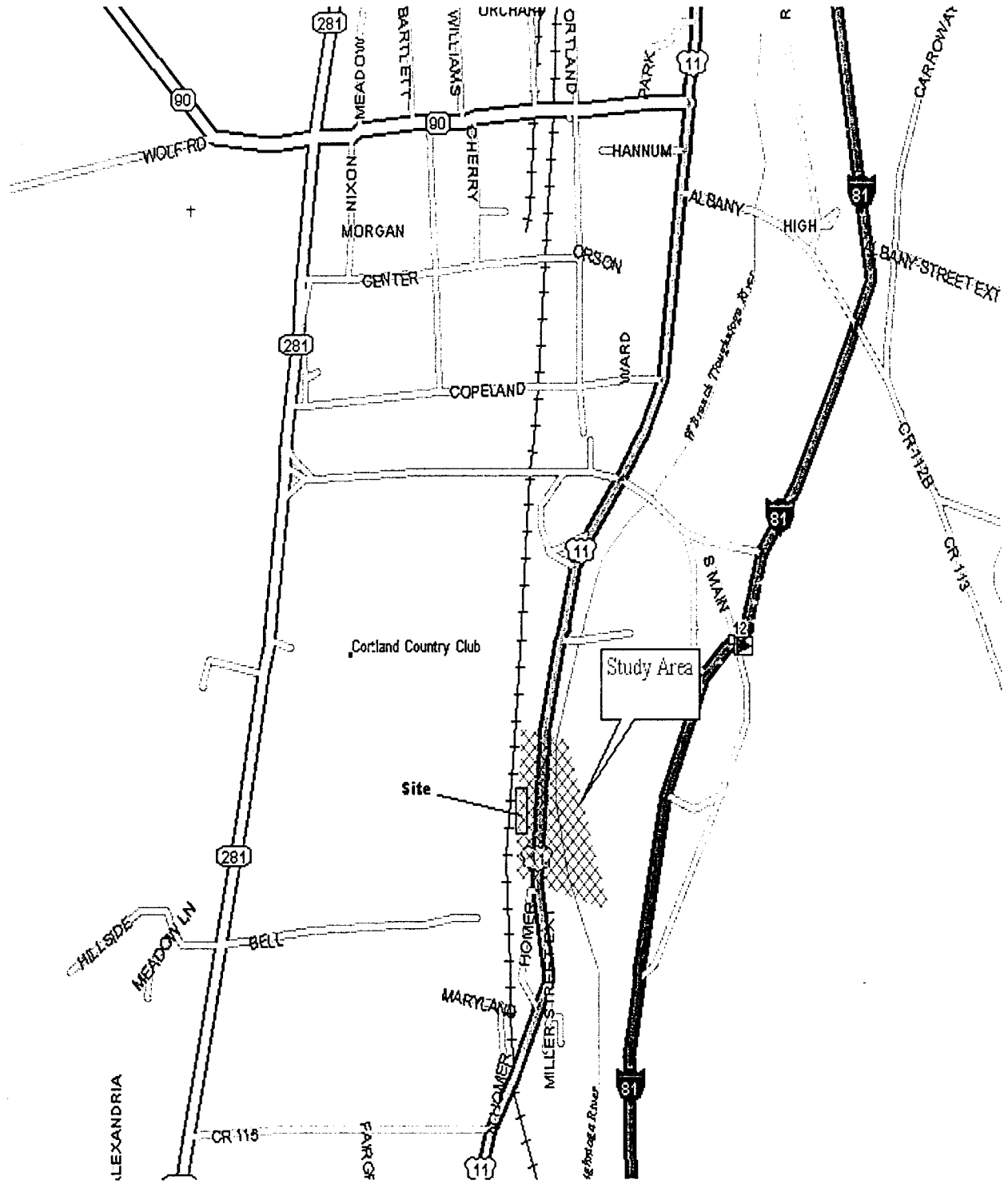
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50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233-7010
(518) 457-9285

Mr. Gary Robinson
NYS Department of Health
217 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 426-7627

You may also contact NYSEG at 1-800-572-1111, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or at 1-800-572-1121 in the case of an emergency at all other times.



NYSEG Mailer

Please fee free to use this mailer for any of the following purposes (check appropriate box):

- ___ 1. You would like to be placed on our mailing list for the Homer former manufactured gas plant Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.
- ___ 2. You would like to include the name and address of someone you know who may be interested in receiving future Fact Sheets.
- ___ 3. You would like to be taken off our mailing list for the Homer former manufactured gas plant Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
- ___ 4. You would like to provide us with a change of name or address.

----- FOLD HERE -----

Please complete the form as indicated below, fold and mail directly to NYSEG.

Add the following name(s):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Delete the following name(s):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

----- FOLD HERE -----

Make the following changes:

(Old) _____ (New) _____

_____	_____
_____	_____

Comments or concerns:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Homer former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site (Site) is located on New York State Route 11 in the Village of Homer, Cortland County, New York, as shown on Figure 1-1. The site contains a commercial building occupied by I.D. Booth, Inc., a wholesale electrical and plumbing supply dealer, and a Bell Atlantic telephone operations center. Commercial businesses and a motel are located adjacent to the Site. The Site was used in the past for the manufacture of gas from coal. The MGP was operated from 1857 until 1908 by the Homer and Cortland Gas Light Company, from 1908 until 1911 by Barstow and Company, from 1911 until 1918 by the New York State Gas & Electric Corporation, and from 1918 until 1932 by the New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG). NYSEG sold the property to Brockway Motors in 1944, who sold it to I.D. Booth, Inc. in 1977. I.D. Booth, Inc. is still the owner.

NYSEG has prepared this document (*Citizen Participation Plan*, CPP) to facilitate two-way communication with individuals, groups, and organizations which have or might express an interest in the Site or surrounding areas, or those who may be affected by the Site's program, and to enable citizens to participate in the decision making process associated with the investigation and remediation of the Site. This plan will detail the citizen participation activities that will be implemented at the Site as part of the upcoming Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (SRI/FS). The SRI portion of the program will focus on those portions of the Site and surrounding areas not previously studied or investigated. In the FS portion of the program newly acquired data will be combined with existing data to determine if a remedial action is necessary at the Site or on surrounding properties, and what remedial technologies would best address this site.

The SRI/FS will be conducted according to the requirements of an Order on Consent between NYSEG and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The Order on Consent is a legal document between NYSEG and the DEC which defines the requirements of each party for conducting site investigations and remediations. The Order on Consent includes requirements for 33 of NYSEG's MGP sites (including the Homer MGP site). The Order on Consent requires that all work at the Site be performed under the oversight of the DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH).

2.0 PREVIOUS SITE INVESTIGATIONS

NYSEG has been studying environmental contamination at the Homer MGP site since 1985. A Preliminary Site Survey was completed in 1985; an Indoor/Outdoor Air Sampling Report was completed in 1986; a Task 2 (Preliminary Field Investigation) Report was completed in 1987; a Task 3 (Expanded Field Investigation) Report was completed in 1989; and a Task 4 (Risk Assessment) Report was completed in 1991. These investigations were completed without DEC or DOH oversight.

The previous Field Investigations answered many questions about nature and extent of MGP contaminants, yet several data gaps exist, primarily associated with the adjacent Tioughnioga River. Additional information needs to be collected in order to determine if any remedial action



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

for the

SUPPLEMENTAL REMEDIAL
INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY

at the

FORMER MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE

HOMER, NY

Prepared by:

NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS CORPORATION
in cooperation with the
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
and the
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

September, 1999