FACT SHEET
Manufactured Gas Plant Program

Fulton Works Former
Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site
Nevins, Degraw & Sackett Sts.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

March 2022

SITE No. 224051
NYSDEC REGION 2

Cleanup Action to Begin at Portion of MGP Site Public Session Announced

NYSDEC invites you to a virtual public availability session to discuss the upcoming site remedy.

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022, at 7:00 PM
To Join via computer, address is: https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee2fa08212346676dce4145415c1b9946
To join by phone, call: 518-549-0500 and use access code: 161 612 2011

Action is about to begin to address contamination related to Parcel III and a portion of Parcel IV of the Fulton Works Former MGP site (“site”) located adjacent to Nevins Street between Degraw and Sackett Streets in Brooklyn, NY. The work is being completed under New York’s MGP Program. Please see the site map below.

The Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) was submitted to NYSDEC under New York’s Manufactured Gas Plant Remedial Program to implement the 2015 Record of Decision (ROD) on parcels III and IV. The RAWP was approved by NYSDEC in March, allowing cleanup activities to begin. The cleanup activities will be performed by 545 Sackett LLC with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Remedial activities are expected to begin in May 2022, and last about 8 months.

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities: The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the remedy are:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of MGP impacted soil. In addition, chlorinated solvent contamination unrelated to the MGP operations, that is encountered during remedial excavations will be removed.
- Importing clean soil that meets the established soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) for use as backfill;
- Installation of a site-wide cover system for restricted residential use composed of building foundations and/or a minimum of 2 feet of clean fill meeting restricted use SCOs;
MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

- Installation of sub-grade components for a soil vapor mitigation system, during site redevelopment, along with a soil vapor intrusion evaluation;
- Implementation of a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) during all ground intrusive activities;
- Development of a Site Management Plan (SMP) to identify procedures for long term maintenance and monitoring activities; and
- Placement of an Environmental Easement on the property to ensure implementation of the of the SMP.

Next Steps: After cleanup activities are completed, 545 Sackett LLC will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER). The FER will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

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

Site Description: The Fulton Municipal Works MGP is located in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn to the east of the Gowanus Canal. The site occupies five properties (designated Parcels I through V) located between Douglass and Sackett Streets and between the Gowanus Canal and Fourth Ave. These five properties comprise approximately 6.5 acres. The site was operated as a manufactured gas plant (MGP) by Brooklyn Union Gas Co. from approximately 1879 to 1929. The various parcels have since been utilized for a mix of commercial, industrial and recreational purposes. Two off-site properties, designated as Parcels VI and VII, were also investigated and are also subject to the site’s 2015 Record of Decision as part of operable unit 1. Parcel VIII is part of Operable Unit 2 of the site. The planned redevelopment on parcel III and IV is mixed use affordable housing.

Summary of the Investigation: A Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted to define the nature and extent of any contamination existing at the site. Analytical data was collected for soil, groundwater, air, indoor air and soil vapor. The results of the RI indicate that subsurface soil and groundwater are significantly contaminated by MGP coal tar. The primary contaminants of concern are benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene (also known as BTEX), which are commonly associated with coal tar. The contamination has migrated off-site into adjacent utility corridors. It has also migrated to the west into and beneath the Gowanus Canal. NYSDEC issued the ROD for this site in 2015.

MGP Program Overview: New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. Sites where contamination has been released to the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

The gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network. The gas was used for heating and cooking much like natural gas is used today. In the early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights. A dense, oily liquid known as coal tar would condense out of the gas at various stages during its production, purification and distribution, and be discharged to the subsurface.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the MGPs, visit:
https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html

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.

Stay Informed With DEC Delivers
Sign up to receive site updates by email:
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DECinfo Locator
Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites:
https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html

https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html
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**Contact:** John Miller at 518-402-9589 or john.miller@dec.ny.gov