

# Saranac Lake, NY

## Ongoing Cleanup Activities

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is committed to a careful and thorough cleanup of the Former Saranac Lake Gas Company, Inc., site at 24 Payeville Lane in the village of Saranac Lake. This work is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2022. Our top priority is ensuring the safety of the surrounding community. DEC and DOH are actively investigating odor complaints and reports of a sheen on Brandy Brook. DEC's inspection determined the cause of the sheen to be related to naturally occurring biological activity.

### WHO TO CONTACT:

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please direct these to the following contacts:

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE:

State Superfund Program

DEC Saranac Lake Website (Site #516008):

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114312.html>

DOH Odor Fact Sheet

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/6500/index.htm>

### Saranac Lake 2021 Planned Activities

Remedial construction activities are being conducted at the Saranac Lake Gas Company, Inc., site to address on-site soil and groundwater impacted with contamination associated with a former manufactured gas plant (MGP). Contaminants include coal tar and elevated levels of MGP wastes, including polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX compounds), which have been detected above New York State standards, criteria, and guidance levels in soil and groundwater.

The remedy selected to address the contamination includes:

- Implementation of in-situ (i.e., in-place) solidification of approximately 37,000 cubic yards of soil;
- Excavation and off-site disposal of soils that exceed the site-specific soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) outside the property boundary, or not deemed suitable for solidification;

- Construction of a soil cover to protect the solidified soil from freeze-thaw conditions and in areas where the upper one foot of exposed surface soil will exceed the SCOs. Where the soil cover is required, it will be a minimum of one foot of clean soil or gravel; and
- Recording an Environmental Easement to ensure implementation of the long-term Site Management Plan.

Remedial construction began in April 2021, with the demolition and off-site disposal of above-ground structures, including a three-sided building, site perimeter fence, concrete slabs associated with former buildings, miscellaneous site debris, and former gas tank holders. Sub-surface remediation activities consist primarily of in-situ solidification (ISS).

ISS involves mixing a waste with a binding agent to bind the waste into a solid block of material and trap the contamination in place to prevent migration with groundwater. Sub-surface activities began in the southern portion of the site and will extend north toward Brandy Brook. DEC previously remediated site-related contamination of Brandy Brook and Pontiac Bay in 2018. To date, approximately 25 percent of the on-site solidification activities are complete. To prepare the site for the solidification process, shallow soil is removed and either stockpiled for reuse or off-site disposal, depending on soil characteristics and laboratory results.



*Foam being applied during ISS.*



*Foam being applied to the stockpiled material.*

To protect public health, an air monitoring program is in effect and will remain in place for the duration of construction activities. The Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) includes perimeter air monitoring 24 hours per day to ensure that dust and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are not migrating from the site at levels that would cause health concerns. Site personnel are continuously monitoring odors and confirming that any odors leaving the site are minimized to the extent practicable. To address odors from the site foam, odor suppressants are being applied to minimize odors to the greatest extent possible. In addition to the foam, methods to reduce odors are being implemented including covering stockpiles during non-working hours and limiting the size of open excavation areas.



*Perimeter air monitoring station along the fence line.*



*Loading impacted soil for off-site disposal.*

## Saranac Lake OU02 & OU03 Cleanup Activities

Cleanup activities of Brandy Brook (OU02) and Pontiac Bay (OU03) were substantially completed in 2018. DEC, through its contractor, removed an estimated 16,900 cubic yards of impacted sediment from Pontiac Bay and an estimated 5,800 cubic yards of impacted sediment and soil along Brandy Brook. In addition, final restoration of Brandy Brook, Pontiac Bay, and several public and private properties was completed in spring of 2019.

Following cleanup, the Brandy Brook and Pontiac Bay portions of the site have entered site management. Site Management is the final phase of a remedial program that follows the satisfactory completion of remedial construction activities. The purpose of site management is to ensure the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment. An interim Site Management Plan for Brandy Brook and Pontiac Bay has been developed to identify and properly implement the required institutional and engineering controls (IC/ECs). Site Management includes visual inspections of the Brandy Brook and Pontiac Bay, groundwater monitoring and sampling, surface water sampling, sediment sampling, and wetland mitigation monitoring.



*Pontiac Bay during backfilling operations.*



*Prescott Park and Boat Launch area after restoration.*

**The ISMP document is available at the DECinfo Locator:** <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/516008/> With the completion of the on-site work this document will be updated.

## Adirondack Rail Trail

The Adirondack Rail Trail is a 34-mile trail linking Lake Placid, Ray Brook, Saranac Lake, Lake Clear, and Tupper Lake. The Rail Trail will consist of a multi-use, solid surface all-year recreational trail. The trail runs adjacent to the site. To ensure remedial activities at the site do not impact the trail's construction schedule, DEC is in regular communication with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to coordinate efforts. At this time, rails have been removed between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid. DEC continues to be in contact with DOT regarding future removal and construction efforts.



*Brandy Brook after restoration, the adjacent railroad tracks have since been removed.*

## Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Sign up to have site information sent right to your inbox at

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

**It's quick, free, and will help keep you better informed. As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information and announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Project documents are made available at the Saranac Lake Free Library

100 Main Street

Saranac Lake, 12983

(518) 891 4190

However, repositories may be temporarily unavailable due to COVID 19 precautions.

If you cannot access the online repository, please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed on the front page for assistance.

Key project documents are available on the NYSDEC Study Area Site website at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114312.html>

or through the DECinfo Locator at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/516008/>