



FACT SHEET

Equity Works Manufactured Gas Plant #224050
Brooklyn, NY
September 2009

Investigation to Begin at former Equity MGP Site

National Grid, with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and with the engagement of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will begin in Fall 2009 a detailed environmental study at Equity Works former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site located at 222-254 Maspeth Avenue (“Site”) in Brooklyn, New York. See map for site location.

Highlights of the Site Investigation

The study done at the Site is called a “Remedial Investigation,” and will be performed under New York’s State Superfund Program. The work plan is called a Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) and is available for public review at the Document Repositories identified below under “Where to Find Information.”

The site investigation has several goals:

- 1) Define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected;
- 2) Identify the source(s) of the contamination;
- 3) Assess the impact of the contamination on public health and the environment;
- 4) Provide information to support the development of a proposed remedy to address the contamination.

The investigation is primarily seeking to determine the presence of coal tar, a viscous liquid that is a by-product of manufacturing gas. Gas manufacturing stopped on the Site prior to 1933. The field work will include installation of soil borings, monitoring wells, and test pits; soil and groundwater sampling; aquifer testing; and collection of sub-slab soil vapor and indoor air samples.

Next Steps

The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a report. After the site investigation has begun, National Grid, with oversight by NYSDEC will conduct a “Feasibility Study.” This study uses information obtained during the site investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination related to the Site. Another possibility is that the information collected during the site investigation may support the conclusion that no action, or no further action, is needed to address site-related contamination.

NYSDEC then develops a draft cleanup plan, called a “Proposed Remedial Action Plan.” This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC, or a no action or no further action alternative. The draft cleanup plan summarizes the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will present the draft cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting. NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the Site.

Background

The Equity Works MGP began operations in the early 1900’s with gas generation, gas storage and purifier house processes in place. Support facilities included coal storage/delivery facilities and miscellaneous tar and oil storage capacity, including tar wells, tar separators, drip tanks, and gas oil tanks. The plant was developed to its maximum extent around 1921. By 1932 the relief holder was partially decommissioned and by 1933 gas manufacturing equipment had been removed. Brooklyn Union Gas owned the property until approximately 1951. Subsequently, the Site was used for storage for the period of 1965 to 1981, and appears to have been vacant during the period of 1986 to 1988. Portions of the Site have been used as a solid waste transfer facility from 1990 to the present under the ownership of various parties. The Site also includes a vacant parcel.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed. These documents include the investigation work plan.

NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7014
Attn: Henry Willems
(518) 402-9662
email: htwillem@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Community Board 1
435 Graham Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11211
(718) 389-0009
District Manager:
Gerald A. Esposito

Greenpoint Branch
Brooklyn Public Library
Attn: Mel Gooch, Librarian
107 Norman Avenue at Leonard Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222
Telephone: (718) 349-8504

Who to Contact

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

Project-related Questions

Henry Willems, Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518) 402-9662
(866) 520-2334
htwillem@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-related Health Questions

Albert DeMarco, Project Manager
NYSDOH, BEEI
547 River St., Room 300
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(800) 458-1158 ext. 27860

Telephone Hotline

National Grid has a Hotline for neighbors of the Site. The Hotline provides an opportunity to ask questions or leave comments.
(718) 403-2005

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.

EQUITY WORKS FORMER MGP SITE – LOCATION PHOTO AND MAP

