

Cleanup Action at the Penn Yan Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Action that will address environmental impacts related to the former Penn Yan Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site (“site”) under New York’s State Superfund Program. The site is located on on Water Street, near the corner of Liberty Street in the Village of Penn Yan, Town of Milo, Yates County. The cleanup activities are being performed by New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG) with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Cleanup activities began in July 2015 and will be completed in September 2019. The estimated cost to implement the cleanup is approximately \$17 million.

Highlights of Upcoming Activities

Remediation efforts for the site will achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment.

In accordance with the NYSDEC Record of Decision (ROD) issued in 2012, the remediation goals for this site include of the following:

- Excavation and/or removal of exposed surface soil exceeding restricted-residential soil clean up objectives (SCOs)
- Excavation and/or removal of sub-surface soils exceeding 500 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of total semi-volatile organic compounds
- Excavation and/or removal of sub-surface soils exceeding 10 mg/kg of total volatile organic compounds
- Excavation and/or removal of soils visibly impacted with non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) or NAPL sheens
- Excavation and/or removal of sub-surface former MGP structures to the extent practicable
- Excavation and/or removal of sediment with visible NAPL, sheen or which produce a visible sheen when agitated in situ
- Excavation and/or removal of sediment in the Keuka Lake Outlet which contains greater than 43mg/kg total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (tPAHs)
- Stabilization of the historic former gas house to facilitate remedial excavation
- Construction of a cover system on the site. The cover system will consist of a minimum of two feet of soil on the MGP parcel
- Development of a Site Management Plan for the long-term maintenance of the site
- Recording of an Environmental Easement for the institutional and engineering controls needed at the site
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A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented during cleanup activities. The HASP and CAMP establish procedures to protect on-Site workers and residents and includes required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

Next Steps

After cleanup activities are completed, NYSEG will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER). The FER will describe the cleanup activities that were 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.

Background

Historic Uses: An MGP was constructed on the site in 1899 and operated until 1931. Gas was manufactured using a coal gasification process by the Penn Yan Light Company. A gas holder and some accessory buildings were demolished sometime following the cessation of the gas manufacturing activities in 1931.

After gas manufacturing ceased, the gas house was redeveloped into a malt house and wood storage facility and later used as a wine storage facility and auto dealership. At some point after MGP operations ceased, a warehouse structure was erected and attached to the west side of the building. The building and warehouse were used for a wine distribution center and later as an auto sales and repair business. The warehouse was demolished in 2004, but its concrete floor was left in place.

Previous Remedial Activities: Remedial investigations occurred at this site from 1986 to 2008 which helped to characterize the nature and extent of MGP impacts at the site. In 1992 an interim remedial measure was undertaken which involved removal of subsurface tar containing structures. In 2012, a Feasibility Study was submitted to NYSDEC which assessed different alternatives for the site cleanup. Based on this report, NYSDEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) which identified the selected cleanup for the site. The also incorporated public comments generated during a public notice period. The selected cleanup described in the ROD includes excavation of on-site soils and sediments in the Keuka Lake Outlet.

Additional Site details are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID,862009) at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3>

Where to Find Information

NYSDEC, Region 8
6274 East Avon Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414

Penn Yan Public Library
214 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Who to Contact

Project-Related Questions:

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