



FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

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Williamsburg Works Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

February 2014

Site #224055

Kent Avenue between N. 11th and N. 12th Streets

Brooklyn, NY 11211

Interim Remedial Measure to start on MGP Site Parcel at 50 Kent Avenue; Work to Commence in Winter 2014

National Grid will begin an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) for a portion of the former Williamsburg Works Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site, located at 50 Kent Avenue, in Winter 2014. The property is owned by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Predecessor companies to National Grid operated the MGP, making National Grid responsible for remediating the property to a level protective of public health and the environment.

The IRM includes the installation of recovery wells around the perimeter of 50 Kent Avenue and a large scale excavation of MGP contaminated soil on the parcel, so that the property can be redeveloped by NYC Parks. Recovery well installation will begin during the winter months of 2014, and the excavation component will begin in the winter of 2015.

The IRM is being completed under an Order-on-Consent between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and National Grid dated February 2007. The Order requires National Grid to investigate, and where necessary, remediate former MGP sites, including the former Williamsburg Works MGP. The IRM is being performed under the oversight of the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). IRMs are approved when a portion of a site can be remediated, removing an easily accessible hazard or, as in this case, facilitating redevelopment, without affecting an eventual Remedial Action Plan for other portions of the former Williamsburg Works MGP site.

About the Manufactured Gas Plant Program:

NYSDEC has one of the most aggressive Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site investigation and remediation programs in the country. Since the problems associated with the former MGP sites were identified, NYSDEC has been working with all the utilities on a state-wide basis to identify and address the issue of MGP sites for which they may have responsibility. This effort has resulted in approximately 235 sites identified for action by the eight utilities operating in New York State. Currently we have multi-site orders or agreements with six utilities, including National Grid, and several other individual site volunteers, to address 222 MGP sites in NYS. Multi-site agreements are under negotiation with a seventh utility and several other responsible parties which have newly-identified sites. NYSDEC continues to seek to identify any other possible MGP sites throughout the State. For more information about the NYSDEC's MGP program, visit: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html.

Background

A predecessor company to National Grid operated the former Williamsburg Works MGP from approximately the 1850s to the 1930s. The plant covered several city blocks between the East River and Kent Avenue, and produced gas for use in the surrounding community, much like natural gas is used today. The gas production process also produced coal tar, a black oily liquid which escaped from subsurface structures and pipes. This tar is still present in subsurface soils under the 50 Kent Avenue property and several adjoining properties as well. The Williamsburg MGP was dismantled prior to 1941, and the Site was subsequently subdivided, sold, and redeveloped for commercial, industrial, and manufacturing uses.

Today the former MGP footprint includes four properties that encompass approximately 6 acres in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn. The main operations of the MGP were located on three of the four properties including 50 Kent Avenue, which are contiguous and bordered by the East River, North 11th and North 12th Streets and Kent Avenue. A gas storage holder was located on the fourth parcel, at 35 Kent Avenue.

The 50 Kent Avenue parcel is the only parcel included in this IRM. This parcel was used by the New York City Department of Sanitation for a sanitation garage. The garage building was demolished in 2009, and since that time the parcel has been a vacant, fenced lot used by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as a parking lot and an outdoor concert space during the summer.

The remaining parcels currently contain large, actively used buildings and remain the subject of a Remedial Investigation, by National Grid with the oversight of the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH.

Project Description

During the first component of the IRM, National Grid will install 13 coal tar recovery wells, which will collect coal tar from the subsurface along the edges of the 50 Kent Avenue property. The well installation is expected to take approximately two months. Site preparation activities will include utility clearance, traffic controls, and installation of a decontamination area to prevent contaminants from leaving the site. Most of the work will be conducted in the N. 11th Street and N. 12th Street rights-of-way. Temporary traffic control signs and barriers will be placed in appropriate locations, as required. After the recovery wells are installed, National Grid will regularly monitor the wells and remove coal tar, as required.

A Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented during all drilling work as a measure of protection to the downwind community from potential releases of odors or vapors

during drilling and on-site work. The CAMP includes real time monitoring of the air as well as corrective actions that will be taken when certain air monitoring levels are met. The CAMP also confirms that contamination is not spread off-site through the air.

A large scale excavation program is being designed for the interior of the 50 Kent Avenue property. Details of this excavation will be announced in a separate fact sheet when they become available later in 2014.

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 IRM work plan.

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

Community Board 1
435 Graham Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11211
District Manager:
Gerald A. Esposito
(718) 389-0009
Bk01@cb.nyc.gov

Brooklyn Public Library
Williamsburg Branch
240 Division St., at Marcy Ave.
Attn: Tracey Mantrone
Brooklyn, NY 11211
(718) 302-3485

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

Bridget Callaghan, Project
Manager
NYSDOH, BEEI
Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 402-7860
beei@health.state.ny.us

Telephone Hotline

National Grid has a Hotline for neighbors of the Site. The Hotline provides an opportunity to ask questions or leave comments.
(718) 403-3053

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

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Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites. County email listservs are available at the following web page: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's *quick*, it's *free*, and it will help keep you *better informed*. As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select. You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

WILLIAMSBUG WORKS FORMER MGP SITE – LOCATION PHOTO AND MAP

