

Cleanup Action Begins at the Seneca Falls Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Action is about to begin that will address environmental impacts related to the former Seneca Falls Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site under New York's State Superfund Program.

The site is located in an urban area of Seneca County at 187 Fall Street in the Village of Seneca Falls. The site is bounded by the Seneca Canal to the south, Fall Street to the north, a gas station to the west, and a single-family residence to the east.

The cleanup activities will be 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 March 2019 and require about eight months to complete. The estimated cost to implement the cleanup is approximately \$3.9 million.

Highlights of Upcoming Activities

Remediation efforts for the site will achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the remedy are:

- Excavation of on-site subsurface structures such as building foundations, the upper portion of the buried former gas holder, and buried piping, which would otherwise interfere with in-situ solidification (ISS) of impacted soils.
- ISS of the on-site impacted materials covering an area of approximately half an acre to depths from six to 23 ft. below grade.
- A demarcation layer, clean soil cover, and gravel parking lot constructed following ISS.
- Excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 650 cubic yards (cy) of off-site soil which exceed cleanup criteria for residential properties, also referred to as Residential Use soil cleanup objectives (SCOs.) The excavation will be backfilled with soils meeting the clean fill requirements.
- A soil cover in two portions of the lowland Area.
- Dredging of sediment with MGP impacts in the Seneca River and Canal adjacent to the site.
- Approximately 2,200 cy of sediment will be removed. The sediments will be replaced with backfill which will restore the benthic habitat.
- Monitored natural attenuation of groundwater.
- Imposition of institutional controls in the form of environmental easements.
- Developing a Site Management Plan (SMP) that describes the post-remedial action monitoring to be completed.

In addition, a site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be in place during remediation 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

The site was previously used as manufactured gas plant from 1856-1903. The site sat idle as parts of the plant were demolished from 1905 to 1944. The subsurface remnants of the gas holder appear to still be in place however. A commercial structure was constructed in the 1960s or 1970s and was used for various retail establishments (e.g., office supply store and video rental).

The site has two distinct topographic levels. The upland portion consists of the northern two-thirds of the site, adjacent to Fall Street. The lowland portion to the south borders the Seneca Canal and is roughly 20 feet lower in elevation. The main upland portion contains a building slab and parking lot. A commercial building had been on the property but was demolished in 2009. The lowland portion is vacant and wooded.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 850010) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Seneca Falls Public Library
47 Cayuga Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Who to Contact

Project-Related Questions:

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Bureau of Environmental Exposure

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