



## **NYSEG Seneca Falls Cleanup: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Seneca Falls Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP)?**

The site is located at 187 Fall Street in the Village of Seneca Falls, NY and consists of approximately 1.2 acres of land located between Fall Street (NYS Route 15) to the north and the Seneca River and Canal waterway to the south.

From approximately 1856 until approximately 1903 the site was home to a manufactured gas plant (MGP) which produced combustible gas from coal and oil. After the MGP closed in 1903 and through 1944, the site was unused and portions of the MGP were demolished. A commercial building was constructed in the 1960s and 1970s and used for various retail establishments. In 2009, the commercial building was demolished.

Cleanup work will take place on the former MGP site at 187 Fall Street, the adjacent eastern parcel at 185 Fall Street, and within the Seneca River and Canal waterway.

### **Why are you involved in the environmental remediation of the MGP site?**

While we never owned nor operated the MGP, we are responsible for the environmental impacts left behind as a result of the purchase of Empire Gas Company in 1974.

In 1994, we entered into an Order on Consent with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) – the Order on Consent requires us to investigate and remediate the site to the satisfaction of the NYSDEC.

### **Can you provide details on the cleanup work?**

Our priority is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. Under New York's State Superfund Program, we will be performing the remediation through a qualified contractor with oversight provided by the NYSDEC. This project is expected to take eight months to complete and include the following key components:

- Removal of contaminated soil and on-site subsurface structures such as building foundations, gas tanks, and buried piping
- Backfilling area with new clean soil
- Construction of a new gravel parking lot
- Implementing institutional controls in the form of environmental easements



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- 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.

### **When will you finish the remediation? Who is doing the work?**

Cleanup activities will be performed by DA Collins Environmental Services, a contractor hired to collaborate with the NYSDEC under New York's State Superfund Program. The work will last approximately eight months.

### **What is the Superfund Program?**

New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

The NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

### **Who is paying for the cleanup?**

We will cover the estimated \$3.9 million cost for the remedial activities.

### **How much have you paid to date to clean up this site?**

\$13.7 million through 2018.

### **What are the plans for the site after the cleanup is completed?**

Once cleanup activities are completed, we will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER) to detail the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been, or will be achieved.

### **What contaminants were found around the MGP site?**

The primary contaminants uncovered at the site are MGP-related volatile organic compounds (VOCs), consisting of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX); semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), namely polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) also referred to as coal tar, and cyanide in subsurface soil, sediment and groundwater.



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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/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

