



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Where to Find Information:

DEC Info Locator – Web
Application

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/510007>

Plattsburgh Public Library*

19 Oak Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901-2810
phone: (518) 563-0921

*(*Repositories are temporarily
unavailable due to COVID-19
precautions. If you cannot access the
online repository, please contact the
NYSDEC project manager listed below
for assistance)*

Who to Contact:

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

Project-Related Questions

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**For more information about New
York's Manufactured Gas Plant
Program, visit:**

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/24904.html

FACT SHEET

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

NYSEG – Plattsburgh

**Saranac St. MGP
Saranac Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901**

SITE No. 510007

NYSDEC REGION 5

May 2020

Cleanup Action to Begin at State Superfund Site

Action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the NYSEG – Plattsburgh – Saranac St. MGP site (“site”) located on Saranac Street in the City of Plattsburgh, Clinton County under New York’s State Superfund Program. The remedial action will address contamination within Operable Unit 2 (OU-2), which is the section of the Saranac River downstream of the former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site. Please see the map for the site location and the location of OU-2. The cleanup activities will be performed by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG – “remedial party”) with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Remedial activities are expected to begin in mid-May 2020. Remedial activities will take place through October. Construction on this phase of the project will continue for the next 2-3 years. The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$ 16,300,000.

- Access project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/510007/>.
- Documents also are available at the locations identified at left under “Where to find information.”

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities: The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the remedy are:

- Excavation and on-site processing of all visually impacted sediment from the Saranac River. A temporary diversion system will be constructed to convey the river around the work area to facilitate access to, and removal of, the contaminated sediment. Approximately 17,700 cubic yards of sediment will be excavated to bedrock.
- In areas where the bedrock is exposed during excavation and visual coal tar is observed, the bedrock surface will be cleaned prior to backfilling.
- On-site processing to separate finer materials for off-site disposal and coarser material for reuse after cleaning. Approximately 5,300 cubic yards of excavated cobbles and boulders are estimated to be suitable for reuse.
- Backfill of the sediment bed with clean material consisting of imported backfill and post-processed coarse material approved for reuse.

MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PROGRAM

- Restoration in-kind of the Saranac Riverbed and any disturbed banks. Riverbed and bank bathymetry and topography will be restored to pre-existing grades with in-kind stream bed and bank materials that may include reused materials. If present, submerged aquatic and riparian vegetation in the disturbed area will be restored.

The approach and planned activities are consistent with those undertaken for the section of the river previously remediated (i.e. OU-1).

A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented 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, NYSDEC will prepare a Construction Completion Report (CCR). The CCR will describe the cleanup activities 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.

Site Description: The site is located on Saranac Street in the City of Plattsburgh. The site occupies approximately 11 acres of land in an urban area along the east and south bank of the Saranac River, directly across the river from downtown Plattsburgh. The site is divided into three operable units. Operable Unit 1 (OU-1) is the on-site source area, covering the area of former MGP structures and the section of the Saranac River adjacent to the site. Remedial construction in OU-1, consisting of excavation, off-site disposal, and riverbed restoration, is complete. Operable Unit 2 (OU-2) includes the section of the Saranac River downstream of OU-1. Operable Unit 3 (OU-3) includes the portion of Cumberland Bay within Lake Champlain impacted by coal tar.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 510007) at:

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

Summary of the Investigation: The principal type of waste material found in OU-2 is coal tar. Coal tar is a black, oily

liquid which condensed from the hot gas produced by the manufacturing process. Large quantities of tar escaped from the site into the Saranac River and migrated downstream into OU-2 and OU-3. Coal tar is known to contain PAH compounds (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) in exceedance of sediment guidance values. Coal tar was observed in Saranac River sediment throughout the investigation of OU-2 in the form of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) sheens and blebs.

MGP Program Overview: New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP 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 gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network. The gas was used for heating and cooking much like natural gas is used today. In the early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights. A dense, oily liquid known as coal tar would condense out of the gas at various stages during its production, purification and distribution, and be discharged to the subsurface.

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

For more information about the MGPs, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>

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.

Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

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Site Location Map

