



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Where to Find Information

Access project documents at these location(s):

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/224046/>.

Brooklyn Community Board #6
250 Baltic Street, Brooklyn, NY 12201
(718) 643-3027

*(*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 and State Superfund
Programs, visit:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html>
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

FACT SHEET

June 2020

Former Metropolitan Works MGP Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Program State Superfund (SSF) Program

124-136 2nd Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215

SITE No. 224046
NYSDEC REGION 2

Investigation Completed at Manufactured Gas Plant Site; Results Will Help to Evaluate Ways to Address Contamination

A detailed environmental study has been completed by National Grid NY (“remedial party”) for the Former Metropolitan Works Manufactured Gas Plant site (“site”) located at 124-136 2nd Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Please see the map for the site location.

NYSDEC has approved a “Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (SRIR)” that describes the results of site investigation and recommends development of a remedy to address contamination that has been found.

- Access the SRIR and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/224046/>.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified at left under “Where to Find Information.”

Highlights of the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report:

The primary contaminants of concern at the site are byproducts of the MGP process and include coal tar and its constituents, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). Coal tar is an oily, viscous, dense liquid that does not readily mix with water. It moves in the subsurface through preferential pathways of higher conductivity, while acting as a source of VOC and SVOC contamination for soil and groundwater.

In the southeastern portion of the former MGP footprint, impacted soils were primarily found at depths between 8 to 16 feet below ground surface, with areas of deeper impacts. A remedial action was completed in 2002 by the property developer to remove impacted soils to a maximum depth of 16 feet during a targeted excavation to remove three of the historic MGP structures. A tar recovery system was also installed by the property developer which is still in use and functioning as designed.

No impacts from this site have been identified into the adjacent portion of the Gowanus Canal. However, migration of coal tar from this site, in the form of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL), appears to have taken place at depths below the bottom of the canal.

STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

Next Steps: A Feasibility Study will be conducted based on information obtained during the investigation to:

- 1) define the objectives of the site cleanup program;
- 2) develop cleanup alternatives; and
- 3) screen and analyze the alternatives.

NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan." This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC to address contamination related to the site. The Proposed Remedial Action Plan will explain the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for selecting or not selecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the Proposed Remedial Action Plan in a future fact sheet and present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Site Description: The site is located at the intersection of 12th Street and 2nd Avenue in South Brooklyn and is bisected by 12th Street. It is bounded on the west by the Gowanus Canal, on the north by the former 11th Street right-of-way, on the east by 2nd Avenue and on the south by 13th Street. The site is approximately 11 acres and completely developed. The site was occupied by a large MGP from the late 1800s to the late 1930s. The original plant footprint is currently occupied by a large home improvement center, a former strip mall and the parking lots that served them; the western third of the site is now occupied by a multi-story brick commercial building, which includes commercial and retail spaces.

Manufactured Gas Plants were facilities, popular in the early 1900s, that used coal and early petroleum products to produce a gas that was used to light and heat homes and businesses.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 224046) at:

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

Manufactured Gas Plant Program: New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. These sites undergo a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and long-term 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 streetlights. Coal tar is a common by product of the MGP process.

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

State Superfund Program: Because this site was declared a significant threat to human health and/or the environment, it is also in New York's State Superfund Program, which follows the same investigation and cleanup process as the MGP Program noted above.

For more information about the MGP and State Superfund Programs, visit:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html> and
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.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>

MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT & STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAMS

