



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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NM – Harbor Point Site, Site No. 633021
Mohawk Valley Oil Site, Site No. 633032
Utica, NY

December 2010

Cleanup Progress Made on Harbor Point Peninsula in 2010

A large-scale soil removal project and a sediment dredging project were completed this year to advance the environmental cleanup of the NM (Niagara Mohawk) Harbor Point and Mohawk Valley Oil inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. These sites are located on the Harbor Point peninsula adjacent to Utica Harbor in the City of Utica. The cleanup activities were performed by National Grid with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) through New York’s State Superfund Program. The New York State Canal Corporation accomplished the dredging of Utica Harbor.

The following was accomplished in 2010:

Mohawk Valley Oil Site. The Mohawk Valley Oil Site (MVO) came under the complete ownership of National Grid in 2010. Following the demolition of a building, 80,000 cubic yards of soil (about 3,600 truckloads) were removed and disposed at an approved facility to enable construction of a dewatering structure and disposal area for Utica Harbor sediment. The excavation included all contaminated soil required to be removed at this site by the NYSDEC.

Utica Harbor. The Barge Canal from the Utica Harbor lock to the terminal wall was dredged to provide adequate navigation depth and to enable the placement of an engineered cap in the harbor. Sediment that was removed through dredging was placed into one of two disposal areas. Sediment that complied with soil cleanup standards for commercial and/or recreational uses was placed at Dredge Spoil Area 1, which is shown on the attached figure. Sediment with higher contaminant levels was placed within the four-acre dewatering structure at MVO. The sediment that was placed at MVO did not exceed the contaminant levels that were established for the clean-up of the peninsula. The sediment dredging required the treatment of approximately 70 million gallons by National Grid.

Upcoming Work

The sediment placed at MVO will be allowed to settle. It will then be covered with soil that is acceptable for commercial and recreational uses. A groundwater treatment program will be implemented at the same time the soil cover is being installed.

The engineered cap will be installed in Utica Harbor in 2011. Using gravel and other materials, the cap will create a barrier that will isolate remaining contaminated sediment from aquatic life in the harbor and from human exposure. The cap will be a minimum of two feet thick.

While the cap is being constructed, excavation of contaminated soil on National Grid property will be occurring. The contaminated soil will be treated at the site using a thermal desorption process.

In addition, toxicity testing of Mohawk River sediments will be performed in 2011. The results of that testing will assist the NYSDEC in determining a clean-up plan for the river.

Key Elements of the Harbor Point Clean-up Program Construction

Scheduled

Installation of Washington Street Storm Sewer liner and sealing of outfalls	Completed
Construction of a soil cover over Dredge Spoil Area 2	Completed
Removal of contaminated soil from Dredge Spoil Area 1	Completed
Containment of soil and purifier waste at the Water Gas Plant area	Completed
Rehabilitation of the Utica Harbor Lock	Completed
Dredging of Utica Harbor	Completed
Capping of Utica Harbor Sediments	2011
Lee Street Extension Outfall	Completed
Excavation and thermal treatment of contaminated soil	2011- 2013
Placement of peninsula soil cover	2013
Mohawk River additional investigations	2011
Mohawk River Proposed Clean-up Plan	2012

Additional information on the entire remediation project can be found at National Grid's website at www.harborpointsite.com

Monarch Chemical Site

The Monarch Chemical Site is being cleaned-up separately from the National Grid and NYS Canal Corporation project. Jones Chemicals Inc. installed groundwater extraction wells at the site in 2009 and completed the installation of a treatment system in 2010. Contaminated groundwater collected by the wells is pumped through the treatment system, which is monitored by the NYSDEC. The groundwater collection and treatment is an on-going operation.

Background

Harbor Point comprises approximately 140 acres of land located between the Utica Harbor and the Mohawk River. The area was developed for industrial purposes in the mid-1800s and was the site of two manufactured gas plants (MGPs), a coal-fired steam plant, a petroleum storage and distribution facility (MVO) and a tar products plant (New York Tar Emulsion Products). Currently, a gas regulator station and electric substation occupy Harbor Point, along with active maintenance and office facilities for the NYS Canal Corporation. The remainder of the Harbor Point Site is undeveloped land.

Coal tar, a byproduct of manufacturing gas, was released to the environment resulting in the contamination of soil and groundwater at the Harbor Point Site and the contamination of sediment within the Utica Harbor. Despite the presence of these contaminants, people are not currently exposed to contamination at the site since access to the site is restricted and groundwater in the area is not used for drinking water. Through a combination of clean-up actions, land use restrictions, and long-term management to prevent the potential for future exposures, the Harbor Point Site and surrounding sites may be redeveloped and used in the future in a protective manner.

Cleanup of environmental impacts on the peninsula and the adjacent Utica Harbor and Mohawk River are being undertaken primarily by National Grid. The New York Tar Emulsion Products Site has been remediated by Beazer East, Inc and Suit-Kote Corporation. National Grid and the NYS Canal Corporation have an agreement for the remediation of Utica Harbor and certain adjacent dredged sediment disposal areas. The remediation of all of these sites is overseen by the NYSDEC, in consultation with the New York State Department of Health. The clean-up activities will continue to be performed according to established health and safety regulations and guidelines. Safeguards will be in place to protect construction workers and the community during clean-up activities, including measures to monitor and control air emissions.

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 253 sites identified for action by the eight utilities operating in New York State.

Currently NYSDEC has multi-site orders or agreements with six utilities, including National Grid, and several other individual site volunteers, to address 222 MGP sites in New York State. 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

Who to Contact

Project Related Questions

John Spellman
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 402-9662

William Jones
National Grid
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 428-5690

Catherine Sheridan
New York State Canal Corporation
200 Southern Boulevard
Albany, NY 12209
(518) 436-2747

Site-Related Health Questions

Deanna Ripstein
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure
Investigation
Flanigan Square Building
547 River Street
Troy NY 12180-2216
(518) 402-7860

Document Repositories

The NYSDEC's Utica Sub-office maintains key documents to the Harbor Point sites for review and additional documents can be made available upon request:

NYSDEC
207 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13501
Contact: Patrick Clearey (315) 793-2558

Documents may also be reviewed at the NYSDEC's Central Office. Please contact John Spellman (telephone 1 (866) 520-2334)

NYSDEC Central Office
Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

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NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs 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.

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