NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet provides an update on activities at this site. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

Mr. Douglas MacNeal
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7017
(518) 402-9662

or

For information on site related activities, you can contact Keyspan:
Ms. April Dubison
Rockaway Park Site Hotline
(**718) 403-3400**

For site related health questions, contact the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) staff:

Ms. Stephanie Selmer
NYSDOH
547 River St. Rm 300
Troy, NY 12180-2216
1-800-458-1158 ext.27880

*Media inquiries will be directed to the appropriate agency's press office.

FACT SHEET

Remedial Investigation and Interim Remedial Measures: LILCO Rockaway Park MGP Site

Site No: 2-41-029
Public Meeting: January 8, 2003
7:30 PM at Beach Channel High School
100-00 Beach Channel Drive

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is providing this to notify you of an upcoming public meeting about the LILCO Rockaway Park Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site. The site, located at the corner of Beach Channel Drive and Beach 108th Street in Rockaway Park, was historically identified as the location of a MGP. Investigations have identified contaminants related to the production of coal gas at the site. These contaminants include coal tar and purifier waste.

Gas production began at the site in the 1880's and continued until the mid-1950's. During its life, the plant expanded several times to increase it's production and storage capacities. Most of these expansions were onto adjacent properties created with fill dredged from Jamaica Bay. During the life of the plant, it was owned by three companies. The final owner of the MGP, while it was still producing gas, was the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO). The property remained LILCO's until they merged with Brooklyn Union Gas Company in 1998 to form KeySpan.

REMEDIAL HISTORY

In 1998, the site was added to the State's Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry), as a class 2 site. A class 2 site "poses a significant threat to the public health or environment and requires remedial action." As a result of this classification, KeySpan entered into an Order on Consent with the NYSDEC, in 1999, to perform a remedial investigation/feasibility study and remediation of the site.

FINDINGS OF THE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

From 1999 through 2002, field work was performed to define the nature and extent of the contamination at the Rockaway Park MGP site. This work included the collection of surface and subsurface soil, groundwater, soil vapor, and ambient air samples for analysis. The samples were taken from locations over the entire site as well as beyond the perimeter of the site. Off site samples were located along Beach Channel Drive, Beach 108th Street, Rockaway Freeway, and in the area between Rockaway Beach Boulevard and the Metropolitan Transit Authority Right of Way, as well as adjacent to Jamaica Bay along the bulkhead due North of the site.

The chemicals of concern at this site are residues of the former MGP process and include volatile organic carbons, semi-volatile organic carbons, and cyanide. The volatile organic carbons of concern are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. Together they are known as BTEX. The semi-volatile organics of concern are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). BTEX and PAHs are the primary constituents of coal tar which was the main by-product of gas production.

The two main contaminants at MGP plants are coal tar and purifier waste. Coal tar is a thick black substance which was a by-product of the gas production process. The coal tar was precipitated out of the gas before it was sent to homes. The coal tar typically appears as a Dense Non-aqueous Phase Liquid (DNAPL) which is a flowable product which does not mix with water and is denser than water. Purifier waste was produced when the gas was passed through purifiers to remove certain chemical impurities. The main chemical of concern of purifier waste is cyanide. Both coal tar and purifier waste are subsurface soil contaminants and are sources of groundwater contamination.

Evidence of both coal tar and purifier waste were found at the Rockaway Park site. The coal tar is found in several locations in the subsurface of the site, typically associated with historic MGP structures. The coal tar has migrated vertically from just below the surface to as deep as 110 feet below the surface and appears to be migrating northward. It has been found on the north side of Beach Channel Drive at depths between 7 and 57 feet below the surface. Evidence of purifier waste has been found up to 6 feet below the surface in several isolated locations on the site and in the bulkhead area. The groundwater contamination from the tar is made up primarily of BTEX compounds with some PAHs and it is moving north by northeast. Evidence of this groundwater contamination has been found on the east side of Beach 108th Street and on the north side of Beach Channel Drive. The purifier waste is in such small quantities that it does not meaningfully contribute to the groundwater contamination plume.

The detailed results of the analytical work are in the Remedial Investigation Report which is available at the document repositories listed below.

HEALTH EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

Direct contact exposures to contaminated soil at the Rockaway Park MGP Site are unlikely as access to the Site is restricted by fencing. Groundwater is not used as a source of drinking water, therefore exposure through groundwater is not expected.

ADDITIONAL WORK RELATING TO THE CLASS 2 ROCKAWAY PARK MGP

Several additional investigation activities have occurred on and around the site in the past few months. During the summer, additional borings, and groundwater probes were installed to further delineate the tar plume and the groundwater contamination underneath and around the site. This Fall several shallow sediment samples were taken from Jamaica Bay adjacent to the site to determine if the bay was receiving any impacts. The results of these activities will be included in a Final Remedial Investigation Report. Also this Fall, KeySpan will begin to remove the old substation on the Northeast corner of the site. They have started removing the metal frames from outside the building and are planning to dismantle the building in the near future.

DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

The NYSDEC and the NYSDOH will keep you informed throughout the remedial program. Your understanding and involvement in this project will help to ensure an effective remediation. If you would like more information about this project, you are urged to review site related documents at the following repositories:

Queens Borough Public Library
Peninsula Branch
92-25 Rockaway Beach Blvd
Rockaway Beach, NY 11693
(718) 634-1110

Community Board 14
1931 Mott Avenue
Far Rockaway, NY 11694
(718) 471-7300
(by appointment)

New York State DEC
Region 2 Headquarters
1 Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-4900
(by appointment)

For general information on NYSDECs MGP program, go to the MGP website at http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/mgp/index.html.