

Sea Isle City Former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site

Prepared by Jersey Central Power & Light Company

Introduction

Sea Isle City, like thousands of other towns and cities throughout the United States, is home to a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) site. These sites produced "town gas" or "coal gas" to serve the community's lighting, cooking and heating needs before the advent of natural gas.

The former MGP site is located at the southwest corner of 39th Street and Central Avenue. The facility operated on this site in the 1880s and early 1920s. The plant facilities were demolished in the 1940s.

Environmental studies conducted by Jersey Central Power & Light Company (JCP&L) show that the soil and ground water at the site contains materials related to the former gas manufacturing process. Testing also shows that some MGP-related materials are found under several adjacent properties and roadways.

JCP&L has been working to investigate and remediate the site. These efforts are being made under the direction of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

Questions and Answers

Q. What materials are on site?

Some byproducts of the gas manufacturing process, including materials present in coal tar and oils, were found at the site. Coal tar, which is similar to roofing tar, is still commonly used in a variety of consumer products, ranging from driveway sealant and other waterproofing materials to dandruff shampoos.

Q. Are other areas affected?

Some soils and ground water under portions of roadways and some lots located near the site have been affected. In general, the affected areas are limited in extent and contain low levels of MGP materials, although the concentrations are greater than established regulatory guidelines. However, no MGP materials were detected at levels above regulatory guidelines in the soils at ground surface. The limited MGP materials that are present above regulatory guidelines are only found in deeper subsurface soils.

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Q. Is the site safe?

The potential concern generally associated with the presence of MGP materials would involve the long-term ingestion (or eating) of the affected soil or drinking of affected ground water.

JCP&L previously covered the site with asphalt and clean soil to create a barrier to direct contact with any affected soils. The surface soils on the adjoining lots have not been affected. As such, there is no opportunity for prolonged direct contact with the affected soils and we do not believe the conditions pose a health hazard to the community.

Q. Are local public water supplies affected?

The shallow groundwater in the area is not used as a drinking water source. The closest public water well, located across the street from the site on Central Avenue, draws its supply from a regional aquifer located approximately 850 feet below ground surface. In addition to the significant distance between the two water tables, there are also geological layers comprised of natural impermeable materials such as clay that prevent the shallow groundwater from infiltrating down into the aquifer.

The Sea Isle City Public Works Department also conducts routine testing of the drinking water supplies and the test results meet all of New Jersey's drinking water standards. There are no known private wells in the area.

Q. What has been done to date at the site?

To date, JCP&L – working under the supervision and at the direction of the NJDEP – has conducted various studies of the site; most recently, an extensive program of soil sampling was conducted

in late 2003. In September 2006 NJDEP requested that additional soil and groundwater samples be collected. The goal is to clearly define the horizontal and vertical extents, to ensure that we maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the final remediation approach.

Q. What future activities are planned?

On August 9, 2007 NJDEP approved three workplans:

- to collect additional soil and ground water samples,
- to remediate the JCP&L-owned properties by removing the impacted soil and replacing it with clean fill
- to conduct a vapor intrusion evaluation to ensure that gases from impacted soils beneath residential homes aren't impacting indoor air quality.

This work is scheduled for fall 2007 through spring 2008.

We will continue to keep local officials and the public informed of the progress of the planning and remediation process.

How can I learn more?

We have established an information repository at the Sea Isle City Public Library, 125 JFK Boulevard. The repository has certain technical documents, such as site assessments, work plans and testing reports. **Or you can call Kelly Henry at (800) 598-9724.**