



New York State Department  
of Environmental Conservation

Fact Sheet 2

July 18 2005

**Citizens Gas Works (Public Place) Former MGP Site, Site No. V00360-2**

**Remedial Investigation Completed at Former MGP Site  
Public Meeting at Community Board 6 Offices, Monday August 8 2005, 7:00 PM**

**KeySpan's Citizens  
(Public Place) Site  
Hotline**

**KeySpan has a Hotline for neighbors of the site. The Hotline provides an opportunity to ask questions or leave comments.**

Telephone Hotline:

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or e-mail

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KeySpan has completed a Remedial Investigation under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) at the former Citizen's Gas Works Manufactured Gas Plant in Carroll Gardens (also known as the Public Place site). The 11.5 acre site consists of four lots, two owned by the City of New York and two privately owned. The site is bounded by Fourth Street, Hoyt Street, Fifth Street, Smith Street, Huntington Street and the Gowanus Canal. A Public Meeting to present and discuss the findings of the Remedial Investigation will be held at the offices of Community Board 6, Monday August 8 2005, 7:00 PM. Representatives of KeySpan, the City of New York, the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation and New York State Dept. of Health will participate.

**History**

A Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) operated on the site from approximately the 1860's through the early 1960's. Brooklyn Union Gas, the predecessor company to KeySpan, owned the site and operated the MGP from 1895 (when it was purchased from Citizens Gas Company), until decommissioning. Brooklyn Union sold the entire site in the 1960's to a private company. Portions of the site subsequently were sold or leased to other businesses. The City of New York acquired ownership of Lots 1 and 100 in 1975 through tax proceedings. Most of Lot 1 remains vacant. Lot 100 is occupied by Ferrara Brothers Concrete (under a lease from the City) and the other parcels are privately owned commercial uses.

**Previous Environmental Investigations**

On behalf of various agencies of New York State and the City of New York, and paid for in part by Brooklyn Union, at least four previous limited-scale environmental investigations were conducted (Stone & Webster 1984; TRC 1985; EA Science and Technology 1987; Roux Associates for Gibbs & Hill 1989-90). Two reviewed data and site histories and two were field studies. The studies identified subsurface MGP wastes, complicated by illegal disposal that occurred after Brooklyn Union's sale of the property. In 1989-90 a Phase II investigation conducted for NYSDEC determined that soils, subsurface water and ground water on the site were contaminated and that contaminated groundwater may be migrating to the Gowanus Canal. The contaminants detected include BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene), PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), naphthalene and volatile organics, typical of former MGP operations.

**Document Repositories  
on Citizens Gas Works  
Remedial Investigation**

Carroll Gardens residents have access to documents and reports about the site, including the completed Remedial Investigation Report. The Document Repositories are at:

Community Board District 6  
250 Baltic Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718.643.3027  
District Manager: Craig  
Hammerman

NYSDEC Region 2  
1 Hunters Point Plaza  
47-40 21st Street  
Long Island City 11101  
718.482.4995

The repositories have copies of all reports and related documents relating to the investigation at the Public Place/Citizens site.

We recommend calling ahead for an appointment

**Remedial Investigation Findings**

For the purposes of the Remedial Investigation the site was divided into four parcels, roughly reflecting current ownership and use, as well as offsite areas. Parcels I and II are owned by the City of New York. Parcels III and IV are owned by different third parties. Parcels I and II are the largest parts of the site. Parcel I has been used for some years as a concrete production and distribution facility. Parcel II shows evidence of illegal dumping for a period of years after KeySpan sold the site. KeySpan did not investigate environmental conditions associated with the illegal dumping. The key findings of the Remedial Investigation are:

1. The site exhibits the characteristics and contaminants expected of a former MGP site, including the presence of coal tar and dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL). The contaminants have been found in all four parcels and at several offsite locations, are all below the surface, and have been found to depths of up to 150 feet.
2. Subsurface groundwater is transporting the chemical constituents expectable of a former MGP site -- BTEX and PAHs, including naphthalene. Some groundwater containing these chemical constituents is entering into as well as transiting under the Gowanus Canal.
3. A qualitative assessment of human health exposures to contaminants of concern in soil, groundwater and soil vapor at the site determined that current users of each parcel have a very low potential to come into contact with the contaminants in excess of values determined by the New York State Department of Health to be protective of human health. This reflects that most of the site is covered with pavement, industrial buildings and concrete waste. Groundwater is not used for any purpose in the area near the site. Human exposure to contaminants of concern in the Gowanus Canal associated with the former MGP operations is highly unlikely because of very limited human use given historical impacts to the waterway from other sources.
4. There are no findings that fish and other wildlife are being impacted by the chemical constituents associated with the former MGP operations. Species observed on the site are highly transient.

**Next Steps:**

- KeySpan will conduct further field work to complete the delineation of DNAPL tar beneath offsite properties owned by third parties, and will also further delineate a plume of groundwater that is believed to be moving to the north and west of the site.
- KeySpan and the NYSDEC have entered into an agreement through which KeySpan will conduct a separate investigation of the sediments in the Gowanus Canal, to determine, the extent possible, whether there are impacts from the former MGP site, as well as from other industrial, commercial and municipal operations along the Canal.