

Schenectady Clinton St. MGP

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

Site No. 447053

Schenectady, Schenectady County



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

October 2025

Cleanup Action to Begin at Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site; Public Availability Session Announced

Public Availability Session, 10/16/25 at 7:00 PM Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority, 375 Broadway, Schenectady, 12305

NYSDEC invites you to this discussion about cleanup activities soon to begin at the site. Drop in any time during the session to ask questions and discuss upcoming site activities.

NYSDEC will provide interpreter services for hearing-impaired persons and language interpreter services for individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English at no charge upon written request submitted no later than October 8, 2025.

Remedial action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the Schenectady Clinton Street MGP site ("site") located at 375 Broadway, Schenectady, in Schenectady County under New York's Manufactured Gas Plant Program. Please see the map for the site location.

Cleanup activities are expected to begin in Fall of 2025 and last about 12 months. The estimated cost to implement the cleanup is approximately \$14,000,000. National Grid will be implementing the remedy under oversight from NYSDEC.

- Access project documents online through the DECinfo Locator:

<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/447053/>

<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/V00474/>

- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified under "Where to find information."

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities

The goal of the remedial actions for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of site cleanup are:

- In-situ (i.e., in place) solidification (ISS) treatment of approximately 24,000 cubic yards of impacted subsurface soils to depths ranging from 15 feet to 45 feet below grade. ISS will be implemented in two discrete areas including the parking lot south of Clinton Street and an area just north of Clinton Street. ISS involves injecting/mixing an agent such as Portland cement into the soil to create a solid monolith that binds contaminants and prevents them from leaching into groundwater.
- Excavation of 4 feet of soil from each discrete ISS area to accommodate the implementation of ISS.
- Installation of recovery wells to collect mobile coal tar from deeper contaminant source zones that cannot be addressed by ISS.
- Installation and restoration of the site cover consisting of the building slab, asphalt, or concrete)

- or placement of a 2-foot soil cover meeting the established soil cleanup objectives.
- Development of a Site Management Plan (SMP) to manage the institutional and engineering controls placed on the site and future monitoring activities.
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to control future land use and to ensure implementation of the SMP.

A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented during cleanup activities. The HASP and CAMP establish procedures to protect on-site workers and residents and includes required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

Next Steps

After cleanup activities are completed, a Final Engineering Report (FER) will be prepared. The FER will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved. NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the cleanup of the site.

Site Description

The site is located at the corner of Broadway and Clinton Streets in the downtown area of the City of Schenectady. The site was originally in the NYSDEC's Voluntary Cleanup Program (site code V00474) until it transferred into the Brownfield Cleanup Program in 2019. The former MGP area is the "on-site" area and is designated as Operable Unit 1 (OU-1). An Operable Unit is term used to identify a portion of a site that can be addressed by a distinct investigation and/or cleanup approach. OU-1 includes a seven-story public housing building and an adjacent parking lot. The former MGP operated on OU-1 from approximately 1851 to 1906 and produced gas from coal for various purposes such as heating and lighting. Across Broadway is the off-site area that is designated as OU-2. OU-2 includes several commercial buildings, parking lots and an undeveloped lot. OU-2 was previously remediated from 2023 to 2024 to remove approximately 9,000 cubic yards of MGP impacted soil.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 447053) at:

<https://appfactory.dec.ny.gov/DERExternalSearch/ERDSearch>

Summary of the Investigation

As a result of the MGP operations, a black oily substance known as "coal tar" was released into the subsurface and contaminated the nearby soil and groundwater. Coal tar contains various volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily benzene, toluene, ethylbenzenes, and xylenes (BTEX). A family of compounds referred to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are also associated with MGP coal tar.

No coal tar was observed within the subsurface remains of the gas holder foundations; however, coal tar was found to the exterior of the MGP structures and is present in an area of about 1.7 acres. Coal tar was found in localized areas of the subsurface at OU-1 from depths of approximately 15 to 55 feet below ground surface, generally within the footprint of the former process area, which is currently the area of the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority parking lot. Groundwater at OU-1 has been impacted and migrates off-site to the west towards OU-2.

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. Sites where contamination has been released to the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and 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 in streetlights. A dense, oily liquid known as coal tar would condense out of the gas at various stages during its production, purification and distribution, and be discharged to the subsurface.

For more information about MGPs, visit:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfields-state-superfund-programs/manufactured-gas-plants/mgp-program>

Stay Informed with DEC Delivers

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.

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

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

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access NYSDEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Project-Related Questions

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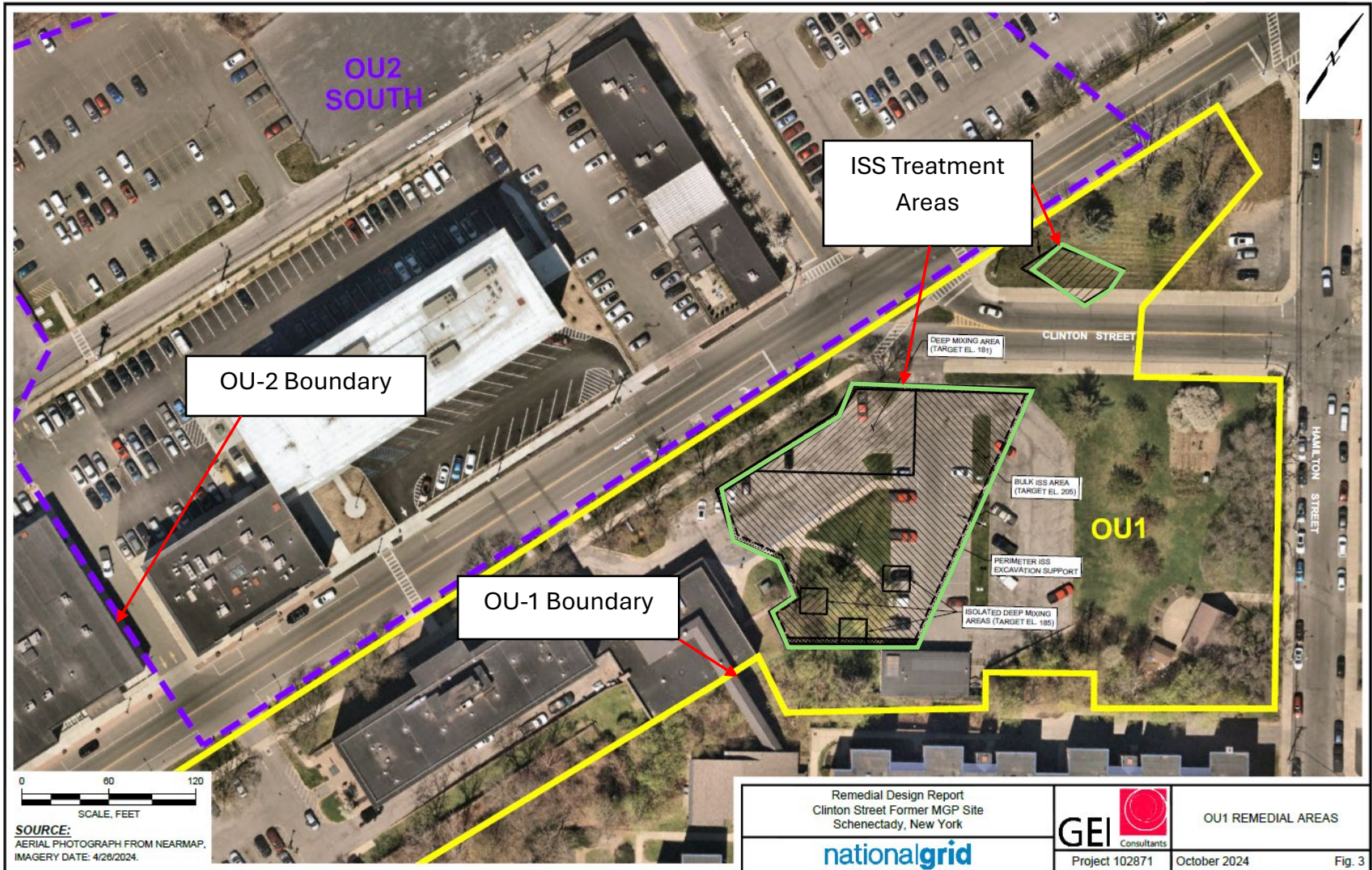
WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/447053/>

Schenectady Public Library

99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
Phone: (518) 388-4500

Site Location





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