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. Belinda Pagdanganan** Sag Harbor Site Hotline (516) 545-5929

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

> Rebecca Mitchell NYSDOH Flanigan Square Room 300 547 River Street Troy, NY 12180

FACT SHEET

Remedial Investigation: Sag Harbor MGP Site

Site No: 1-52-159 April 2002

Public Meeting to be held on May 7[,] 2002 7:00 PM Village of North Haven Village Hall 335 Ferry Road North Haven, NY 11963

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and KeySpan Corporation (KeySpan), is providing this update on the current status of the Sag Harbor Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site. The site, located just south of the corner of Bridge Street and Long Island Avenue, was historically identified as the location of an MGP. Past investigations have identified contaminants related to the production of coal gas at the site. These contaminants are primarily coal tar and its constituents.

BACKGROUND

Gas production began at the site in 1859 and continued there until 1931. The plant probably, initially, used a process called coal carbonization in which gas was extracted directly from heated coal. By 1892, however the plant had switched over to the Low Water Gas Process which uses steam and liquid hydrocarbons to extract more efficient gas form the coal. In 1929, following the purchase of the plant by the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO), the gas storage capacity at the plant was expanded with the addition of pressurized distribution holders to distribute gas manufactured at other facilities. The Hortonsphere (large spherical gas tank) was constructed in 1931 as part of this expansion. By 1964 the site had been dismantled leaving only the Hortonsphere and the gas distribution equipment which are still used today. The property remained LILCO's until they merged with Brooklyn Union Gas Company in 1998 to form KeySpan.

REMEDIAL HISTORY

In the late 1980s, several investigations were conducted on multiple properties along Bridge Street. These investigations resulted in the listing of the "Sag Harbor Bridge Street Site" as a class 2 site on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry). Following a preliminary site assessment in 1993, the site was delisted because no hazardous wastes were found on the site. A follow-up investigation conducted voluntarily by LILCO from 1995 through 1997, led to the listing of the Sag Harbor MGP site on the Registry in 1998, as a class 2 site.

In 1999, KeySpan signed a consent order with NYSDEC and contracted Dvirka and Bartilucci (D&B) to design and begin a remedial investigation to determine the nature and extent of the contamination found on the Sag Harbor MGP site. The investigation included soil borings to determine the nature and extent of contamination in the subsurface soils, as well as the installation of monitoring wells and the placement of temporary groundwater probes to determine the extent of the groundwater contamination.

The data from this investigation have shown the presence of contaminants typically associated with a MGP operation. These contaminants can be divided into two categories: BTEX compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's). BTEX compounds are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. These are volatile hydrocarbons found in most petroleum products such as gasoline. They are less dense than water and will form sheens on top of water. PAH's are made up of several semi-volatile compounds. These compounds are also found in many petroleum products, such as asphalt. These compounds tend to be denser than water and are not readily dissolved or broken down in the environment. BTEX and PAHs are most often found in a mixture known as coal tar (also known as a dense non-aqueous phase liquid, or DNAPL due to its capability to sink in water and the fact that it does not easily mix with water). It is a dark, viscous fluid with a distinctive acrid odor. Coal tar was the mixture of the residual substances which condensed out of the manufactured gas before it was piped to individual customers.

The coal tar and its chemical constituents on the Sag Harbor site are mostly found immediately underneath the locations of the old gas holders and tar separation tank. From there the coal tar (DNAPL) seems to follow a layer of peat, silt, and clay which underlays the site and migrates away from the site, mainly to the south. This geologic bed acts as a semi-confining layer, keeping the DNAPL contained within a few feet of the bottom of the peat in all but one location. The tar and its constituents are also the source of the groundwater contamination. The groundwater contamination is known to travel north and northwest off the site, towards Sag Harbor Cove. This contamination is made primarily of BTEX compounds, although some PAH's are found in the plume fairly close to the site.

PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

The remedial investigation process includes sampling to determine whether people are or could be exposed to contamination from this site. Potential exposure pathways include eating, drinking, breathing or coming into contact with contaminated soil, water or air. Currently, there is no indication of human exposure to contamination from the site. Because the contamination at the site is below ground, accidental contact is unlikely. The area is served by a public water supply that is routinely monitored to ensure that it meets drinking water standards. Additional work is planned to assess potential off-site exposure routes, including indoor air, surface soil, surface water and sediment. A well search is also planned to identify any private supply wells near the site that could potentially serve as a route for exposure to contaminated groundwater.

ADDITIONAL AND FUTURE WORK

Currently KeySpan has contracted D&B to perform some additional investigative work to more precisely delineate the extent of the soil and groundwater impacts. KeySpan has also contracted with Vanasse Hangen & Brustlin, Inc. to evaluate potential exposure routes. This work includes the advancement of more soil borings and groundwater probes, the installation of new monitoring wells, and the collection of off-site indoor air and surface soil samples. Also included in this work is an investigation involving surface water, pore water and sediment samples from Sag Harbor Cove to determine if any contamination is entering the cove. Once the additional samples are collected, the data will be analyzed, and included as part of the final remedial investigation report. This new data will also be used to update the Qualitative Human Health Exposure Assessment and the Fish and Wildlife Resources Impact Analysis, which are included in the appendix of the Remedial Investigation Report.

After the investigative work is completed, a feasibility study will be produced to examine various remedial options for the site. Based on this feasibility study, NYSDEC will prepare a proposed remedial action plan which will be presented to the public and will be used in the final selection of a remedy for the site.

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:

John Jermain Public Library	NYSDEC Region 1 Headquarters
Main St, corner of Jermain St	SUNY-Stonybrook

Sag Harbor, NY Kevin Verbesey, Director (631) 725-0049 Hours: Mon - Sat. 10-5, Thurs. 10-9	Stony Brook, NY 11790 Contact: Mr. Walter Parish Regional Hazardous Waste Engineer (631) 444-0241 Hours: M-F: 9-5 (by appointment)