Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. (Saratoga Springs Plant)

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980664361

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 22

Saratoga

Saratoga Springs

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 6/24/1988
Final Date: 2/21/1990

Site Description

The Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation site (Saratoga Springs Plant) includes a 7-acre parcel (the NMPC Property), the former Skating Rink Property (a 2.3-acre property formerly owned by the City of Saratoga Springs) and portions of Spring Run Creek. The Site is located in the City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, New York.

The 7-acre NMPC Property was used for coal gas manufacturing by the Saratoga Gas Light Company, a predecessor company of Niagara Mohawk, and then by various other companies from 1853 until the late 1940s. By-product materials containing hazardous substances were disposed of at various locations at the NMPC Property, and the Property's subsurface contains numerous coal tar waste deposits from these operations. Niagara Mohawk operated the site from 1950 to 1999 as a district service center and headquarters for its electric line, natural gas, vehicle and equipment repair, maintenance, storage facilities, and tree trimming crews servicing the Saratoga District. The site is located in a primarily residential area of Saratoga Springs. Approximately 10,000 people live within a 1-mile radius of the site and receive their drinking water supply from the City of Saratoga Springs. Loughberry Lake is the drinking water supply reservoir for the City of Saratoga Springs and is located 2,000 feet upgradient of the site. Approximately 1,300 people nearby obtain their drinking water from private wells located within 3 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility:

The Site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party (PRP) actions.

Threat and Contaminants

The groundwater and soil on the NMPC Property are contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) associated with coal tars. Stream sediments contained PAHs and low levels of the pesticide DDT. Had site-related contaminants migrated into sources of drinking water, area residents could have been exposed to contaminants when drinking or using that water. The results of the risk assessment conducted by EPA show that the contaminants that were located in three sediment areas of a downgradient stream did not pose a risk to human health, but might have posed a risk to ecological receptors

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site. Response Action Status Entire Site: In 1989, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) began an investigation into the nature and extent of site contamination. The remedial investigation (RI) was completed in September 1992. Based on the results of this investigation, cleanup technologies were evaluated and it was determined that supplemental field work needed to be performed in order to refine the various cleanup options that were being analyzed. In June 1995, EPA released to the public a Proposed Plan that outlined EPA's preferred remedy for the site. Following a public meeting and public comment period, the final remedy for this Site was documented by EPA in a September 29, 1995 Record of Decision (ROD). The remedy entailed excavation and off-site disposal of highly contaminated soil and source areas containing coal tar waste found on the NMPC property; installation of subsurface barriers and drains, with DNAPL and groundwater collection sumps to contain contaminated groundwater on the NMPC property; installation of an asphalt cap to minimize infiltration of rainfall and snow melt through the contaminated soils; and institutional controls and long-term monitoring. In addition, the remedy required excavation of contaminated soils in the vicinity of the former municipal skating rink; removal of contaminated sediments in a nearby stream; and elimination of contaminant transport via an underground storm sewer to off-site areas. The selected remedy addresses the principal threats posed by the site and allows for continued industrial use of the NMPC property in the future. Site Facts: The EPA and NMPC signed a Consent Order in 1989 that specified

NMPC's responsibilities for performing an investigation of site contamination. A Consent Decree requiring NMPC to design and implement the remedy was approved by the court on May 15, 1997. The remedial design document was approved in September 2000. A public information meeting was held on July 19, 2001, to discuss construction activities. Construction of the remedy began in May 2001. In December 2001, EPA issued an Explanation of Significance Differences (ESD) describing changes to several components of the remedy selected in the 1995 ROD. These changes modified the cleanup approach of the skating rink property and the underground storm sewer, and preserved the historic Round House, which was originally slated for demolition in order to remove contaminated soil beneath it. National Grid acquired the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation in 2002. Since that date National Grid, as the sucessor corporation, has been implementing the requirements of the Consent Decree.

Cleanup Progress

Construction of remedial activities described in the 1995 ROD were completed in the fall of 2002. However, additional residual coal tar contamination was identified in subsurface soil outside of the containment barrier wall on the NMPC property, on a portion of the adjacent former Spa Steel property, and downgradient areas (on and south of Excelsior Avenue). National Grid expanded the containment barrier wall system to address the soil contamination on the NMPC property and the Spa Steel property. This barrier wall extension was completed in June 2008. Also, additional investigation activities were implemented on the area south of Excelsior Avenue to complete the delineation of coal tar contamination. National Grid is currently developing a feasibility study report to evaluate potential remedial technologies to address this area of contamination.

During implementation of remedial activities, approximately 68,400 tons of contaminated soil were excavated from the NMPC and the skating rink properties and transported off-site to a thermal treatment facility. Also, approximately 16,700 tons of contaminated sediments from Spring Run Creek were excavated and transported off-site for thermal treatment and 1,700 tons of non-hazardous construction debris were transported to an approved RCRA Subtitle D landfill. The excavated areas have been backfilled with clean soil and sediments, as appropriate. A temporary water treatment facility was constructed in August 2001 and treated over 7 million gallons of water. This facility was replaced by a permanent groundwater treatment facility in June 2002.

Some changes that occurred during construction did not alter the remedial objectives for this Site. One change involved the final restoration of some areas adjacent to Spring Run Creek. The City of Saratoga Springs (City) and the Saratoga Springs Open Space Project notified EPA that they were interested in utilizing this area for a bike path and suggested changes in the final restoration plan. EPA and NMPC agreed to these changes with the understanding that the City would be responsible for any additional work in this area.

Site Repositories

Saratoga Springs Public Library, Reference Section, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866