

# An Overview of the Former Harrison Gas Works Site Remediation Project

Updated May 2021

## Site History

Prior to the widespread availability of natural gas, gas was “manufactured” through a process of heating coal in specialized ovens. These facilities, called Manufactured Gas Plants (MGP), were common in many urban areas of the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Manufactured gas was used for residential and street lighting and cooking. The manufactured gas process produced byproducts, such as coal tar and other chemicals that were also used in the chemical, dye and pharmaceutical industries. An unintended consequence of the MGP industry was the effects from coal tar and various byproducts to the environment.

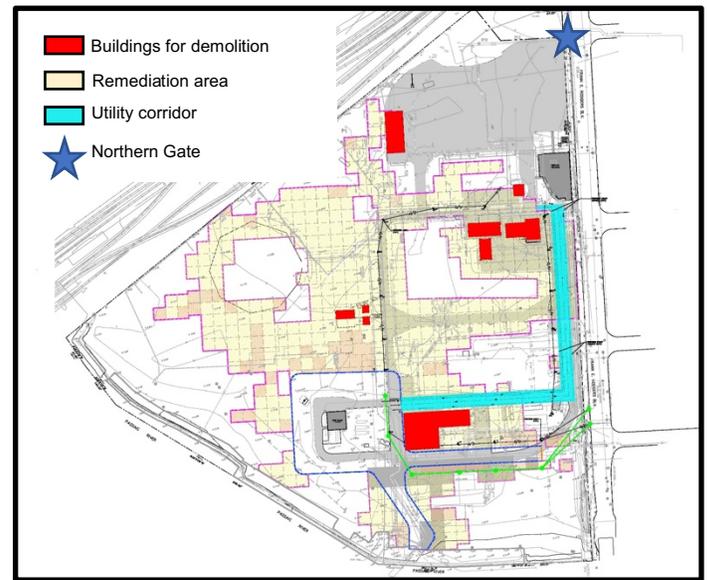
The Town of Harrison in Hudson County has a former MGP Site, approximately 32 acres in size, located at 2000 Frank E. Rodgers Boulevard. Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) and its predecessor companies acquired portions of the Site between 1884 through 1924, when construction of the MGP began.

It operated as a base load facility from 1926 until approximately 1963, when it was converted to peak shaving status. The facility was retired from service after the winter of 1986 – 1987 and decommissioned in 1992. Buildings and structures were removed to grade surface, but former MGP foundations, pipes and other remnants remain in the subsurface.

PSE&G has been investigating and remediating the site since the late 1990s, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). This work has been performed under the oversight of a Licensed Site Remediation Professional since 2012. Several phases of remedial work were completed between 2004 and 2018.

The Site currently houses a natural gas Metering and Regulating Station (M&R) and is used by the following PSE&G units and operations.

- PSE&G Harrison Gas Distribution headquarters;
- PSE&G Harrison Appliance Service headquarters; and,
- PSE&G Fleet Maintenance Center.



*Area of 2020-2022 PSE&G Harrison Remediation*

## Focus of Current Activities

The sitewide remediation, now underway, is addressing the remaining impacts to soils, which may also result in positive impacts to groundwater. PSE&G is conducting this work to fulfill its obligations to the NJDEP in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state and to ensure the property’s continued beneficial use. There are no plans currently in place for the property’s future use.

Based on a successful 2018 Pilot Study, sitewide remediation began in July 2020 to remove soil, treat deeper soils in place, and contain impacted soils near the M&R Station. The work, when complete, will have removed approximately 290,000 tons of soil and debris from the top 7 feet to 10 feet of the target areas, as well as the remnants of the former plant’s infrastructure in those areas.

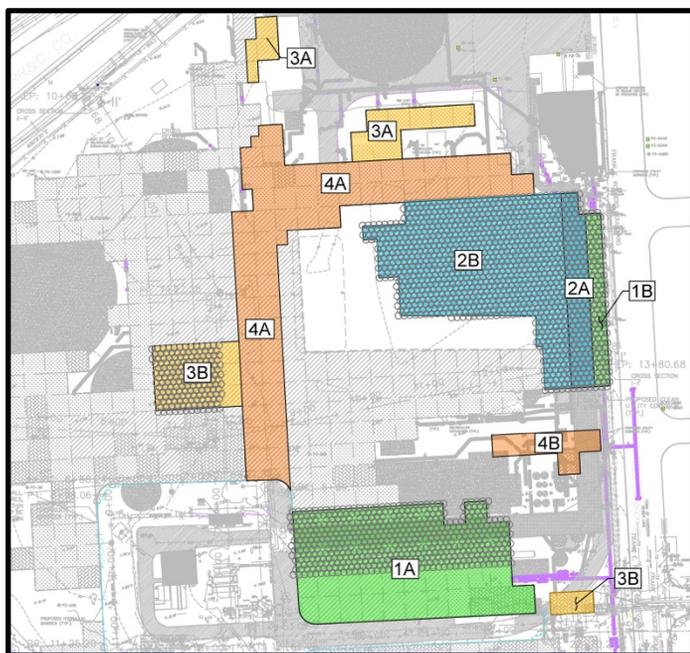
Deeper impacted soils are being treated in place through a process called In Situ Solidification and Stabilization (ISS), which mixes impacted soils in place, below ground, with stabilizing agents such as Portland cement and blast furnace slag. ISS is done both with bucket mixing and auger mixing, depending on soil conditions and depth. Impacted soils in the vicinity of the active M&R Station and its infrastructure will remain in place but contained through installation of below ground slurry wall.

### For More Information

Visit the Project Website: [www.HarrisonMGP.com](http://www.HarrisonMGP.com)

Call the Project Information Line at (855) 356-2383

Email us at [comments@HarrisonMGP.com](mailto:comments@HarrisonMGP.com)



*Stages of Phase 2 Remediation*

The remediation project is being performed in two phases. Phase 1 is on schedule for completion in June 2021 and restoration work is underway. Impacted soils in open areas outside of existing buildings and the active M&R Station and infrastructure were successfully remediated using ISS.

Phase 2 work is underway. Seven onsite buildings are being removed to remediate soils beneath them. A hydraulic barrier wall will be installed around the M&R station to contain impacted soils adjacent to and below the gas infrastructure. Utilities servicing the M&R station will be replaced with new lines and connected within a clean utility corridor.

**Schedule and Hours of Activity** – Subject to change, PSE&G anticipates project completion in mid-2022. Typical weekday work hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., but may extend to 7 p.m. to complete specific tasks. Saturday work will occur when needed for maintenance and critical activities.

### What You Can See

**On-Site Controls for Surface Water and Groundwater** - PSE&G will maintain soil erosion and sediment controls to manage surface water from storm events. An onsite pumping and treatment system is operating as designed to control groundwater and surface water accumulations during excavation and backfilling. Treated groundwater is discharged in accordance with a permit issued by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

**Trucks Carrying Materials** – Trucks carrying ISS reagent materials, clean fill and excavated soil enter and leave the Site. Excavated soil is trucked to facilities for beneficial

reuse or disposed of at a licensed facility. Trucks are covered and cleaned prior to leaving the Site.

**Temporary Northern Access** – In Summer 2021, an existing traffic light at Frank E. Rodgers Boulevard and Guyon Drive will be reconfigured to accommodate a North Gate, near the PATH station, and become the only access to the site. Trucks leaving the site will continue to travel via Jackson Street Bridge to the New Jersey Turnpike.

### Protecting Health and Safety

**Air Monitoring Equipment and Dust Control Measures** – Air monitors are installed along the perimeter of the active work areas and periodic confirmatory air samples are collected throughout the project. Control measures (such as water mist, foam spray, plastic sheeting and sand cover) are used proactively to control potential dust and mitigate odors during excavation and non-work periods, including evenings and weekends.

**Mitigating Odors Typical of MGP Materials** - Odors associated with some constituents can often be detected at levels that are well below what would be considered a health concern and often below what can be detected by an air monitoring instrument. While the project team is committed to minimizing them, odors similar to fresh asphalt or mothballs will at times persist.

**Vibration Monitoring** - A vibration monitoring plan created by an outside expert is in place. Vibration monitors are placed between the work and the closest structure to confirm they are protected. The monitors measure ground vibration, which dissipate with distance. Vibrations may be experienced on occasions when buildings are demolished or concrete is broken up and removed.

### About the MGP Constituents

The source of the MGP materials is the former MGP operations. Some by-products, including coal tar and oils, were found in the soil and groundwater at the Site. Compounds of concern in soil include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene(s) (or BTEX), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (or PAHs) and metals. Potential concerns from MGP constituents are associated with ingestion (eating) of the affected soil or drinking the affected groundwater. Groundwater in the area is not used as a potable water source and the Town of Harrison water supply is not affected.

### Community Outreach

PSE&G is committed to open communications. In Winter 2020 and Spring 2021, PSE&G held webinars to answer questions from neighbors. Before active remediation work began, PSE&G provided detailed information to officials from the Town of Harrison, Hudson County Regional Health Department, Site neighbors and PSE&G personnel.