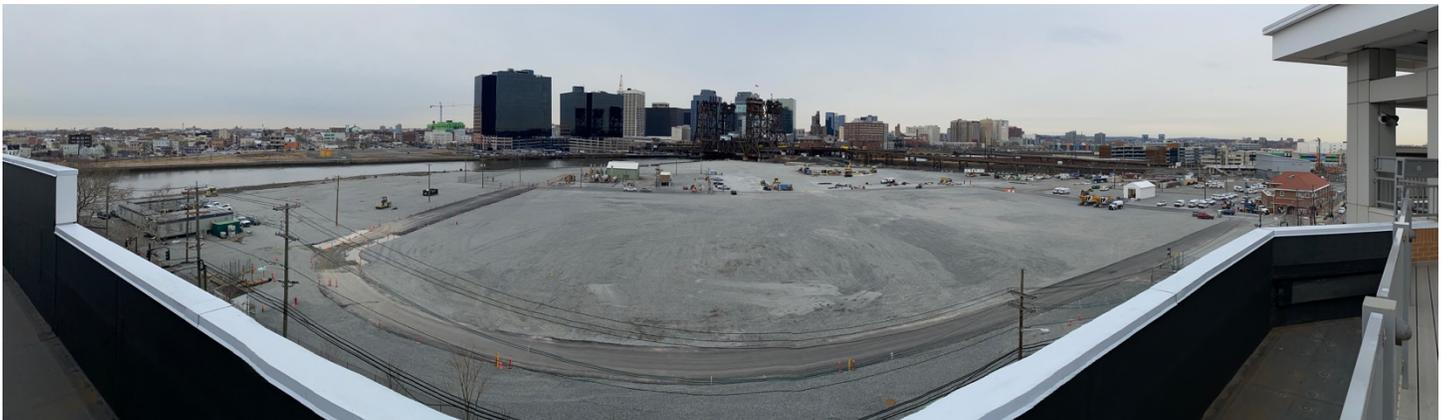


# An Overview of the Former Harrison Gas Works Site Remediation Project

Updated April 2022



*PSE&G Harrison Site in March 2022 as Restoration Was Completed*

## Site History

Prior to the widespread availability of natural gas, gas was “manufactured” by 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 of coal tar and various byproducts on 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 baseload facility from 1926 until approximately 1963, when it became a peak shaving facility. It was retired from service after the winter of 1986 – 1987 and decommissioned in 1992.

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

## Current Site Status

From July 2020 through December 2021, PSE&G successfully remediated the Site to address remaining MGP-related soil impacts. This work also is expected to have a beneficial effect on impacts to groundwater. Restoration of the property was completed in April 2022.

PSE&G conducted 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 current plans to change the property’s use.

PSE&G will develop a Remedial Action Report to document this work, including updating delineation of impacted soils. Groundwater monitoring is ongoing.

***Completed Remediation*** – The sitewide remediation removed soil, treated deeper soils in place, and contained impacted soils near the on-site natural gas Metering and Regulating (M&R) Station. This work removed approximately 300,000 tons of soil and debris primarily from the top 7-10 feet of the affected areas, as well as remnants of the former plant’s infrastructure.

The remediation project was performed in two phases. Phase 1 remediated soils in open areas. Deeper impacted soils were treated by In Situ Solidification and Stabilization (ISS), which mixes impacted soils below ground by bucket or auger with stabilizing agents such as Portland cement and blast furnace slag.

Phase 2 included removal of seven onsite buildings to remediate the soil beneath them with ISS. A hydraulic

barrier wall and environmental cap were installed around the M&R station to contain impacted soils, and surface soils at the M&R Station were removed and replaced. Natural gas pipelines to the M&R station were replaced in 2021 and installed in a clean utility corridor.

Restoration of the site included new security fencing and paving of onsite roadways, as well as repairs to sidewalks adjacent to the Site along Frank E. Rodgers Blvd. Remediated areas were backfilled with clean fill and clean stone to grade.

***On-Site Controls for Surface Water and Groundwater –***

During the project, PSE&G maintained soil erosion and sediment controls to manage surface water from storm events. An onsite pumping and treatment system operated as designed to control groundwater and surface water accumulations during excavation and backfilling. Treated groundwater was discharged to an onsite sanitary sewer in accordance with a permit issued by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

***Air Monitoring Equipment and Dust Control Measures –***

PSE&G maintained a Permit Air Monitoring Plan throughout the remediation project. Air monitors were installed along the perimeter of the active work areas and confirmatory air samples were collected throughout the project. Water mist, short and long-term foam, and vapor sprays were used to control mitigate odors.

***Vibration Monitoring*** – A vibration monitoring plan created by an outside expert also was in place throughout the project. Vibration monitors were placed between the work and the closest structures to ensure they were protected. The monitors measured ground vibration, which dissipates with distance.

***About the MGP Constituents***

The source of the MGP materials was 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 included 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 was not affected.

**Community Outreach**

PSE&G held online webinars in Winter 2020, and Spring and Fall 2021 to provide updates on the project and answer resident questions. Recordings of the webinars were posted to the project website, HarrisonMGP.com. PSE&G also provided detailed information weekly to neighbors, PSE&G personnel and officials from the Town of Harrison, and Hudson County Regional Health Commission.

**Fast Facts**

**Project Name:** Former Harrison Gas Plant

**Site Location:** 2000 Frank E. Rodgers Blvd.,  
Town of Harrison, Hudson County, NJ

**NJDEP Program Interest # -** 004160

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A copy of all reports regarding the work will be made available to the Town of Harrison, Office of the Town Clerk.

Further information regarding these identified chemicals can be found at  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/health/index.html>  
and <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html>