

EWEB Manufacture Gas Plant Site Remediation



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

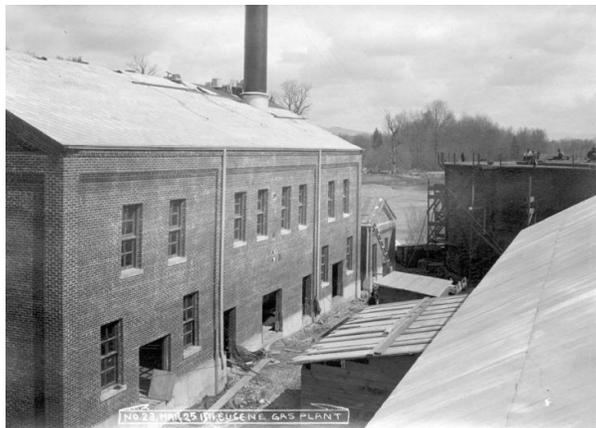
What's happening?

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is overseeing cleanup of contaminated soil associated with a former manufactured gas plant at 701 East Eighth Avenue in Eugene, next to the Willamette River. The Eugene Water & Electric Board, Cascade Natural Gas Corp. and PacifiCorp are performing this cleanup to meet DEQ's requirements described in the 2015 Records of Decision for this site.

Background

Between 1907 and 1950, this site was used for the manufacture of coal gas, which was used by the residents and businesses of Eugene for light and heat. After 1950, the site was converted for storage and supply of propane-air gas. By the time propane-air gas operations ceased, all remaining aboveground structures except the main brick building had been removed. EWEB purchased the property in 1976; at that time it was largely paved and fenced with a locked gate. Byproducts of the manufactured gas process remain buried at the site.

Investigations of soil, groundwater and surface water began around 1995. Based on these investigations, DEQ created the ROD, which evaluated cleanup alternatives and used evaluation criteria to select the most appropriate cleanup option. The ROD was issued in 2015. EWEB, Cascade and PacifiCorp began the design of the DEQ selected remedy shortly after the ROD was issued and it is now being implemented.



Former Eugene manufactured gas plant, 1911.

What is the contamination?

Historical operations released MGP wastes to the ground and other MGP wastes were buried when the plant closed in the 1950s. These wastes include naphthalene and benzene. Naphthalene is a component of coal tar and a byproduct of fossil-fuel combustion. It's found in dyes, asphalt and mothballs. Pure naphthalene gives mothballs their distinctive odor. Benzene is a petrochemical found in crude oil. It's a component of gasoline and is used to make numerous products, including plastics, dyes and detergents.

Site investigations have found contaminants in several areas on the site, including near the Willamette River shoreline. This cleanup effort is aimed at ensuring significant contamination is removed and other, non-mobile contamination remains stable under an engineered soil and asphalt cap, so it doesn't migrate into groundwater or the river.

How will it be cleaned up?

Starting in September 2019, crews will remove MGP waste from known areas of contamination and dispose of it at the hazardous waste landfill in Arlington, Oregon. Trucks hauling removed material will be covered to prevent dust and soil from escaping. The excavation areas will be backfilled with clean soil and crews will build an asphalt cap across the entire site to prevent stormwater infiltration.

DEQ anticipates that chemical odors due to MGP waste may periodically be noticed in areas around the excavation site. These conditions should not persist for significant lengths of time and the responsible parties will manage odors so hazardous conditions do not develop in public areas.

In late summer/early fall 2019, crews will strengthen and stabilize the Willamette riverbank with additional river rock and native plants to help prevent long-term riverbank erosion.

Cleanup Program

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DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

What happens after cleanup?

The site remedy requires the site to remain paved and will require periodic inspections. DEQ will oversee monitoring of the site to ensure the cleanup remedy is effective. The site cleanup allows the City of Eugene to develop a southern access to the future Downtown Riverfront and contributes to the City's efforts to establish a downtown quiet zone for the railroad.

For more information

Find the ROD and other DEQ documents for this site at go.usa.gov/xVZbH or contact DEQ project manager, Don Hanson by phone at (541) 687-7349 or by email at hanson.don@deq.state.or.us

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.