

NM – Canastota MGP

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

Site No. 727014

Canastota, Madison County



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

March 2026

Cleanup Action to Begin at Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Remedial action is about to begin to address contamination related to the NM – Canastota Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site located at E. North Canal Street, Canastota in Madison County under New York’s Manufactured Gas Plant Program. Please see the map below for the site location.

Cleanup activities by National Grid are expected to begin in April 2026, and last about 8 months. The estimated cost to implement the cleanup is \$5.1 million.

- Access project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/727014/> .
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified under “Where to find information.”

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities

The goal of the cleanup action at the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The key components of the cleanup are:

- Excavating and off-site disposal of approximately 6,900 cubic yards of contaminated soil from depths of 6 to 8 feet below grade.
- Removing and properly disposing of subsurface structures associated with past MGP operations, including a tar well/separator and hot well.
- Importing clean fill to replace the excavated soil and to establish the design grades at the site.
- Implementing in-situ (i.e. underground and in place) solidification within portions of the excavation bottom extending to depths approximately 15 feet below the existing site grades, where the remaining soil exceeds the commercial use soil cleanup objectives. The contaminated soil will be mixed in-place with solidifying agents such as Portland cement and/or other binding agents using an excavator or auger. This will result in a low permeability mass that reduces groundwater flow and inhibits the migration of contaminants.
- Installing a site cover to allow for commercial use of the site. The cover will consist of on-site buildings, gravel, and pavement as well as a 1-foot layer of clean soil in landscaped areas. The soil cover will be placed over a demarcation layer, with the upper six inches of soil of sufficient quality to maintain vegetation.
- Implementing a Site Management Plan for long-term inspection and maintenance of remaining contamination as required by the environmental easement. This includes plans for: (1) Institutional and Engineering Controls; (2) monitoring; (3) operation and maintenance; and (4) reporting.
- Recording an easement as an institutional control to prevent future exposure to any residual contamination remaining at the site.

A site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented during cleanup activities. The HASP and CAMP establish procedures to protect on-site workers and residents and include required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

Next Steps

After cleanup activities are completed, National Grid, as the Responsible Party, will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER). The FER will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

DEC will keep the public informed throughout the cleanup of the site.

Site Description

The former MGP is located on the Village of Canastota Department of Public Works (DPW) property. The 6.34-acre site is bound by East North Canal Street to the south, Roberts Street and undeveloped land owned by the Canastota Central School Board to the north, the Greater Lenox Ambulance Service and residential properties to the west, and residential properties to the east. Approximately half of the site area is a paved lot, and the remainder is occupied by the DPW garage and gravel areas. The area is served by a public water supply. The former MGP operated from 1900 to 1926 and was demolished during the 1930s and 1940s. The property was vacant until it was sold to the Village of Canastota in 1969.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 727014) at:

<https://appfactory.dec.ny.gov/DERExternalSearch/ERDSearch>

Summary of the Investigation

The primary contaminants of concern at the site are non-aqueous phase liquid, in the form of coal tar, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Coal tar includes volatile organic compounds (VOCs) comprised primarily of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX), and PAHs. Investigations conducted at the site showed the presence of coal tar in the soil and elevated concentrations of BTEX and PAH contamination in soil and groundwater.

Manufactured Gas Plant Program

New York's MGP Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of former MGP sites. Sites where contamination has been released to the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

The gas manufacturing process involved the heating of coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network. The gas was used for heating and cooking much like natural gas is used today. In the early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights. A dense, oily liquid known as coal tar would condense out of the gas at various stages during its production, purification and distribution, and be discharged to the subsurface.

For more information about MGPs, visit:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfields-state-superfund-programs/manufactured-gas-plants/mgp-program>

Stay Informed with DEC Delivers

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Project-Related Questions

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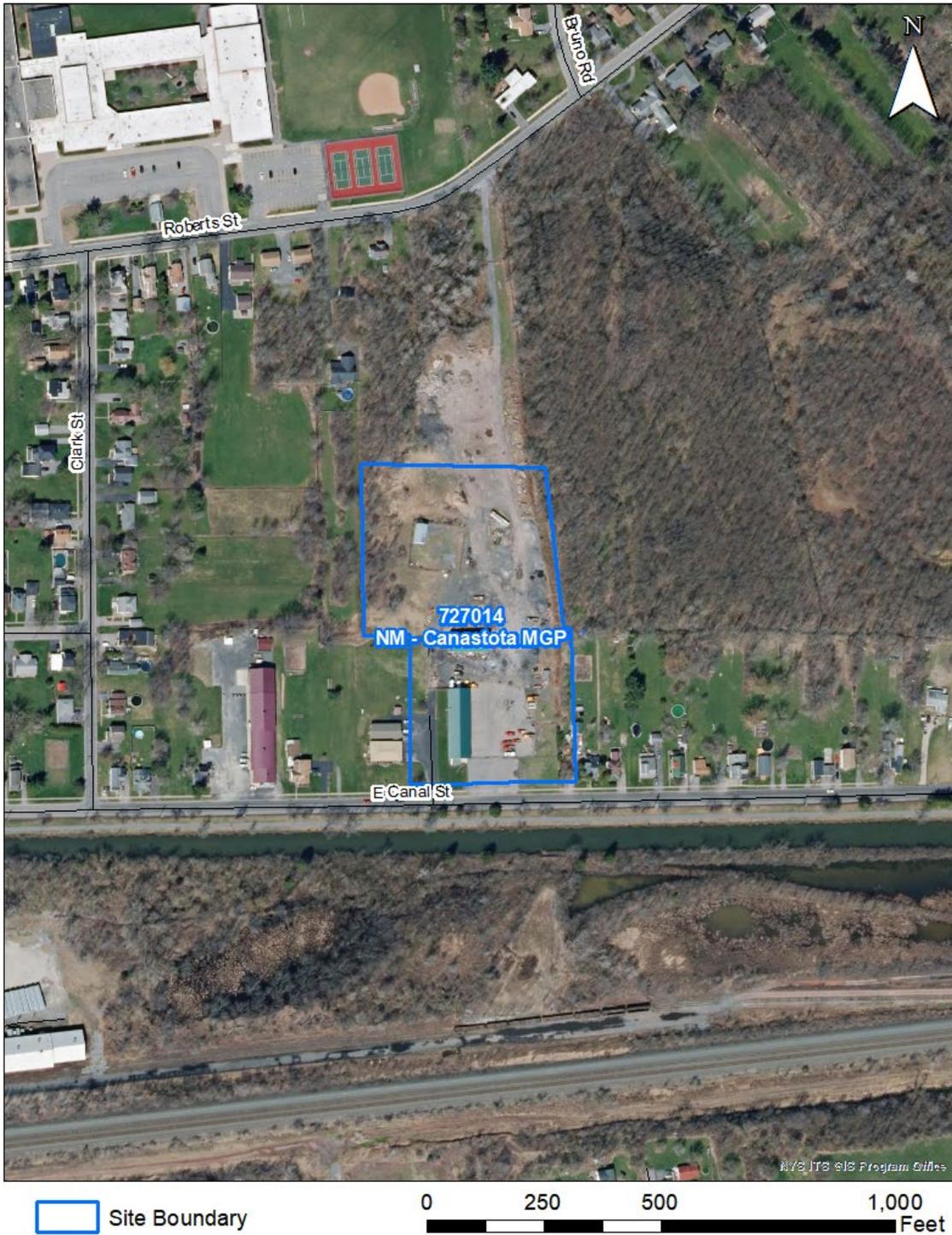
WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/727014/>

Canastota Public Library

102 West Center Street
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-7030

Site Location





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