



Poughkeepsie Waterfront Cleanup Project

Central Hudson is conducting an environmental cleanup of a former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site on the Hudson River waterfront in the City of Poughkeepsie. When completed, this multi-year project is anticipated to provide benefits to the Poughkeepsie waterfront community.

The former MGP was operated by Central Hudson and predecessor companies from 1911 until the mid-1950s. The plant produced gas from coal and petroleum products to meet the lighting, cooking and heating needs of residents and businesses in the City of Poughkeepsie and surrounding areas of the Mid-Hudson Valley. Manufactured gas was replaced with natural gas in the mid-1950s; the facility was subsequently used to provide supplemental heating gas during days of peak use, and was retired in the early 1970s. Some of the by-products of the manufacturing process were found at the property and in river sediments.

MGPs were used throughout the country from the mid-1800s through the early to mid-1900s. In New York State alone, more than 300 MGPs were built and operated by local gas companies, and were eventually decommissioned when natural gas was first introduced in the 1950s through the interstate pipeline system.

Central Hudson, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is

participating in the state's Brownfield Cleanup Program to clean up the site, which includes both on-land soils and in-river sediments. As part of this program, a remediation plan to remove the contaminants was developed, approved and implemented.

Central Hudson is also in communication with local municipal and county officials including the City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County, the Walkway Over the Hudson, environmental organizations, emergency responders, rowing clubs, marinas and nearby property owners and businesses in developing the remediation plans.

The property is located at the intersection of North Water Street and Dutchess Avenue and along the banks of the Hudson River, beneath the Walkway Over the Hudson. The site is approximately 13 acres in size and is adjacent other former industrial and commercial properties. Central Hudson currently operates and maintains natural gas pipeline and electric facilities on the property. The area in the vicinity of the former plant has been in continual industrial use by other parties since the early 1800s.

Remediation activities include removal of some on-shore soils, replacement of an 850-foot bulkhead along the shoreline, capping the steep river bank and utility crossings and dredging several acres of river sediment adjacent to the site.

Since 1986, Central Hudson has been working cooperatively with the NYSDEC to investigate and identify impacts to the site. More recently, the NYSDOH and other state and federal regulatory agencies have also been engaged to develop and implement a cleanup plan. During the investigation stages, Central Hudson utilized new technologies in assessing site conditions and potential remediation methods, including a low-impact tool to locate underground materials by use of a laser induced fluorescent light. In 2011, Central Hudson received the Environmental Sector Transfer Award by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for testing the effectiveness of a new material in trapping and containing sediment contaminants.

In addition to the North Water Street site, Central Hudson has addressed or is in the process of addressing five other former MGP sites located in Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Newburgh, Beacon and Catskill. To date, cleanup activities have been conducted for all but the North Water Street site in Poughkeepsie.

For more information on manufactured gas plants and remediation activities, visit the [NYSDEC website](#).