



Sampling Begins as Part of Cleanup Investigation

Peoples Gas Plant South Station Site

Chicago, Illinois

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8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

Information Repositories

Official documents about the South Station site can be viewed at the following branches of the Chicago Public Library:

Richard J. Daley Branch
3400 S. Halsted St.

McKinley Park Branch
1915 W. 35th St.

Lozano Branch
1805 S. Loomis St.

Site documents can also be read at the EPA Region 5 Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago

On the Web

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/peoplesgas

www.epa.gov/region5superfund/npl/sas_sites/ILN000510191.htm

Contractors for Peoples Gas have started to investigate an 8.3-acre former manufactured gas plant site along the south branch of the Chicago River once known as South Station. This investigation is being done to determine if contamination is present on the site and, if so, what must be done to clean it up. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing this investigation and all work that will be done at South Station. This site is divided into two main sections. The eastern section is slightly less than half of the site and is owned by Peoples Gas. It contains a storage warehouse constructed in the early 1970s and a parking area (see parcels A and B in aerial photo on reverse). The western section, a bit more than half of the site, is owned by the City of Chicago. It is an open area where the city plans to create a residential park (see parcels C and D on reverse). This western section of the site was cleaned up several years ago under an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency voluntary program.

In October 2008, Integrys Energy Group, the parent company of Peoples Gas, entered into an agreement with EPA to investigate and study 11 former manufactured gas plant sites in Chicago as part of the Agency's Superfund Alternative Sites program. South Station is one of those sites.

Site history

The South Station site is located on the southwest side of Chicago near the intersection of Eleanor and Loomis streets. Land use along the river next to the site is industrial, but the neighborhood is mostly residential, including the north side of Eleanor Street just across from the site. South Station was used to manufacture gas from coal from 1874 to 1941. From 1941 to 1961, the property was used to support Peoples' natural gas operations. In 1961, Peoples closed and dismantled the plant. A portion of the site was later used to manufacture wood pallets.

In the late 1990s, an investigation found that soil on the site contained coal-tar contamination including polyaromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs and other chemicals. Ground water under the site was also found to be polluted by similar contaminants. In 2000, sediment samples were collected from the river next to the site at various depths. These samples also contained high levels of coal-tar contamination.

From 2001 to 2006, Illinois EPA performed cleanup work on the portion of the site now planned to become a city park. This included removing the contents of underground storage tanks, demolishing and removing buried structures, excavating soil as deep as 30 feet and dredging contaminated sediment from the river.

Next steps

After Peoples Gas and EPA have completed a thorough investigation of the entire South Station site, a study will be undertaken to determine the best way to clean up any remaining contamination.



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