

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

PG&E Former Manufactured Gas Plants San Francisco Marina District

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is providing this update for PG&E's former North Beach and Fillmore manufactured gas plant (MGP) sites (Sites). The Sites operated as MGPs within a few blocks of each other from the late 1800s to 1906 when they were both severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake and ended operations. In the late 1920s to early 1930s, residential and mixed-use structures were built on the Sites.

In 2010, PG&E began a voluntary program under oversight of DTSC to test for residues from the MGPs in San Francisco's Marina District. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the progress made over the last 6 years, and to invite you to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Work Completed

PG&E has taken soil and soil vapor samples from more than 30 private properties. Remediation has been completed on 12 properties. In most cases work was done not because of current exposure, but to reduce the potential for future exposure to MGP-related contaminants. To date, remediation was not necessary for soil vapor and the work generally consisted of removal of several feet of soil from backyards and backfilling the yards with clean soil, then restoring the landscaping or adding hardscape where MGP related wastes remain in place at shallow depths. PG&E is working with more of the property owners to conduct additional remediation this year. Not all properties sampled need remediation. Based on the data reviewed by DTSC, there is currently no immediate (short-term) MGP-related health concern.

Ongoing Program Work

The majority of work so far has focused on sampling soils within 5 – 10 feet of the ground surface in private properties where there is the greatest potential for people to come in contact with MGP residues. MGP residues may include coal tar and spent coal or coke, and can include various chemical compounds including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Additionally PG&E collected soil and soil vapor samples from more than fifty locations in public rights-of-way, such as sidewalks with approval from the City and County of San Francisco. They are now conducting additional characterization of potential MGP impacts to soils and groundwater at greater depths to further understand the nature and extent of MGP contamination. Groundwater is not used as drinking water in the area. The San Francisco municipal water supply is from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Preliminary results from this work show the presence of possible impacts in deeper soils (primarily between 20 – 30 feet below the ground surface). Samples are being collected and sent to a laboratory for evaluation and the results will be submitted to DTSC and published in publicly available reports. Because the presence of these possible MGP residues is far below the surface it is unlikely that, under current conditions, people will be exposed to them.

This voluntary program is ongoing and we will continue to keep you informed of our progress.

Site History

MGPs were located in cities and towns across the country to produce gas for lighting, heating and cooking from the mid 1800s through the early 1900s. Beginning in 1883, the Fillmore MGP operated near the area west of Fillmore and Bay streets. Beginning in 1891, the North Beach MGP operated near the area north of Bay and Buchanan streets (see enclosed Map). PG&E was formed in October 1905, and operated the gas plants for six months until April 1906, when they were severely damaged in the 1906 Earthquake and ceased operations. Based on historical records, it is believed that the majority of the former MGP structures were demolished as part of the construction of the 1915 Pan Pacific International Exposition. At the conclusion of the Exposition, the majority of the wooden structures were demolished. Some of the materials from the Exposition were salvaged but much of the leftover materials were reportedly burned.

How Can I Find Out More?

This notice is being sent to you for informational purposes. A complete record of the Sites, including the workplans mentioned above, can be found at the following locations:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3800 (Call for appointment)

San Francisco Public Library–Marina Branch
1890 Chestnut Street (near Webster)
San Francisco, California 94123
(415) 355-2823

Information about the Sites can be found online at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public. Click on “Site / Facility Search” on the left, type “San Francisco” in the City field, and click on “Get Report.” Find “PG&E Former North Beach Manufactured Gas Plant” or “PG&E Former Fillmore Manufactured Gas Plant” (on page 3) and click on “Report.”

If you also would like DTSC to notify you via email when new EnviroStor documents (i.e., workplans, reports, etc.) are available online for these sites, please sign up to receive email alerts on the EnviroStor report page.

DTSC Contact Information

For project information: Charles (Chip) Gribble, (510) 540-3773 or Charles.Gribble@dtsc.ca.gov.

For public outreach information: Wayne Hagen, Public Participation Specialist, (510) 540-3911, toll free at (866) 495-5651, or Wayne.hagen@dtsc.ca.gov.

For media inquiries: Sandy Nax, Public Information Officer, (916) 327-6114 or Sandy.nax@dtsc.ca.gov.

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

如閣下對此清理計劃有疑問，請致電 DTSC 職員 Henry Wong 黃先生，(510) 540-3770.



PG&E Former Manufactured Gas Plants (MGPs) Site Location Map

