

Community Update

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Washington Gas Site – Operable Unit 2 (OU2) CERCLA Activity – Remedial Investigation

Summer 2022

OPERABLE UNIT 2 ADDITIONAL REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION FOR BENZENE

In mid-2020, Washington Gas submitted a draft remedial investigation (RI) report to the National Park Service (NPS) and the District of Columbia (“the Agencies”) for review. The RI was performed both on land beginning in 2016 (“landside,” in transects shown as a green dotted line on Figure 1), and in the river in 2017, (“in-river,” at points within the area shown as a black dashed line on Figure 1). The purpose of the RI was to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination in groundwater (including beneath the river), surface water, and sediments of the Anacostia River resulting from historical operations at the Washington Gas East Station Property (shown in brown and labeled as such on Figure 1). This work was performed by Washington Gas with oversight by the Agencies in accordance with the terms of a 2012 settlement agreement under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The settlement between Washington Gas, the District of Columbia, and NPS was finalized in a Consent Decree in September 2012 and requires that Washington Gas perform work subject to the oversight and approval of NPS, in consultation with the District.

Benzene, a manufactured gas-related chemical, has been detected in groundwater samples from the northeastern part of the landside investigation area. The elevated benzene concentrations were detected beneath the Site in the sand and gravel unit approximately 40 feet below the ground surface. Washington Gas is currently completing additional activities to further investigate this contamination.

This work started in early 2022, and included geological coring, hydraulic conductivity measurements, and groundwater screening and sampling for benzene. Samples were collected from a depth of approximately 50 feet below the ground surface in the area shown as a blue cross-hatched rectangle on Figure 1.

Washington Gas has proposed collecting additional samples from the Anacostia River to evaluate the migration of benzene to the Anacostia River. This field work is proposed to begin in the fall of 2022. The results of this work will be included in a RI Report Washington Gas will prepare and submit to the Agencies for review.

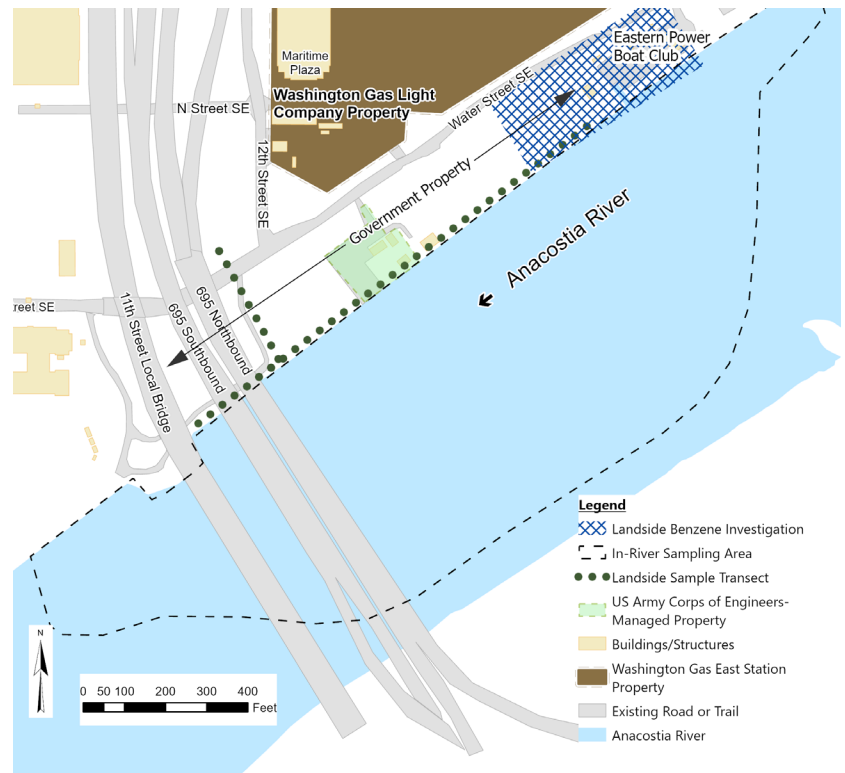


Figure 1. Map of OU2 remedial investigation areas

NPS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

NPS will continue to provide Community Updates as we progress on this important project. Please check the Washington Gas – East Station Site webpage for updated information at <https://www.nps.gov/anac/learn/management/washington-gas-site.htm>

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