

Community Fact Sheet

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Washington Gas Site- Operable Unit 1 CERCLA Activities

October 2014

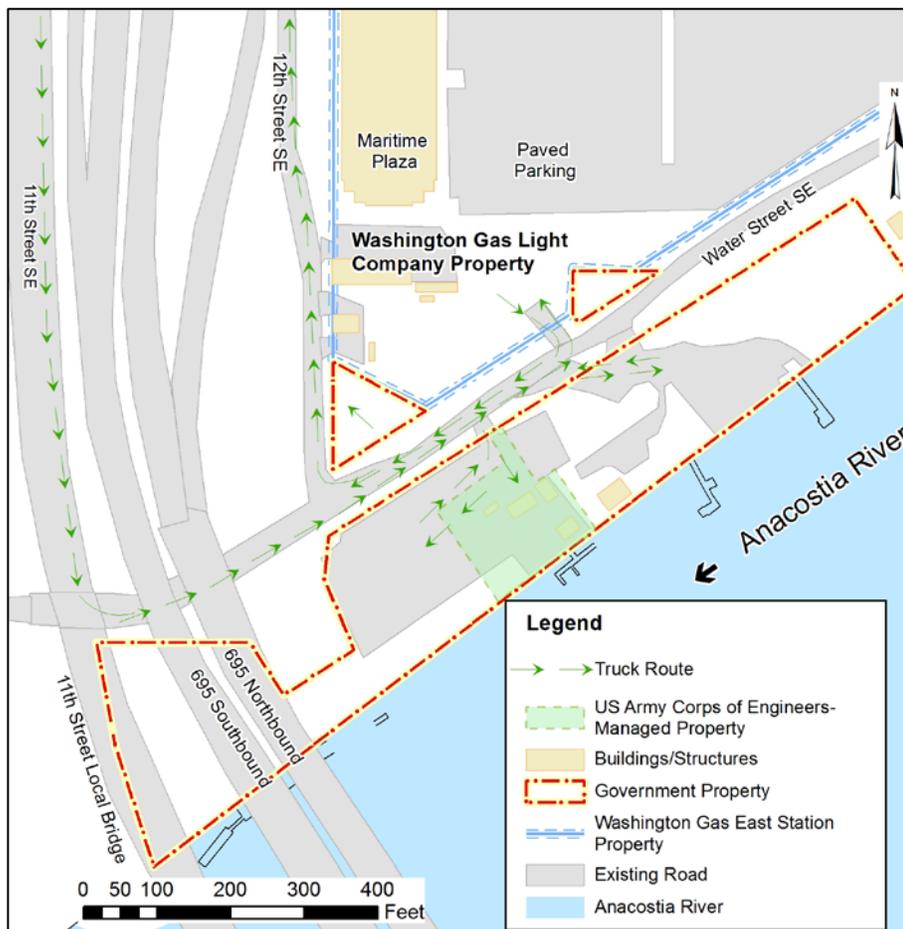


Figure 1. Map of Washington Gas Site 1

OUI CLEANUP BEGINS

In September 2014, the National Park Service (NPS) and District of Columbia (District) approved the Operable Unit (OU) 1 Remedial Design and Remedial Action Work Plan, Project Operation Plan, and Construction Quality Assurance Plan prepared by Washington Gas Light Company (Washington Gas). This remedy will address contamination in the surface and subsurface soil within the government property (outlined in red on Figure 1). NPS, in partnership with the District, oversees all of Washington Gas’s investigation and cleanup activities as part of a 2012 legal agreement under CERCLA¹.

NEXT STEPS

NPS and the District are committed to providing the public with information about site activities. Over the next several months, the following response action activities are scheduled to occur.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

- Sample and analyze proposed clean fill.
- Sample and analyze contaminated soils for proper disposal.
- Review and approve proposed clean fill and contaminated soil disposal facility.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

- Install fencing and equipment at the site.
- Hold a community briefing.
- Set up health and safety and environmental controls, such as traffic controls, truck inspections, erosion and sediment controls, and air monitoring stations.

DECEMBER - APRIL

- Restrict access to the government property to OU1 Remedial Action workers and Army Corps of Engineers employees working at the dredging facility.
- Excavate and backfill with heavy equipment.
- Place clean fill in excavated areas.

During excavation and backfilling, weekday truck traffic will increase in the immediate area.

Controls will be used to protect public health and safety and prevent releases of contaminated soil to the Anacostia River or surrounding neighborhoods.

¹ CERCLA is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund. The CERCLA Consent Decree was signed in September 2012.

In accordance with the CERCLA Record of Decision and Statement of Work, Washington Gas will perform the following OU1 Remedial Actions.

1. **Excavate** up to 3 feet of contaminated surface and subsurface soil.
2. **Backfill** all excavated areas with clean fill and topsoil.
3. Implement an **Institutional Controls Program** to ensure that people working or playing on the government property are not exposed to risks from hazardous substances and that future uses of the property do not make the remedy less protective.

Public access to the government property may be limited for an additional two years after completion of on-site work to ensure successful vegetation over the clean soil that will blanket the property.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Washington Gas East Station Property is located in Southeast Washington, D.C., generally south of M Street and east of 11th Street (outlined in **blue** on the figure). Washington Gas manufactured flammable gas, initially for lighting and then for heating, on this property from 1888 to the mid-1980s.

The primary focus of the current clean-up activity is the area southeast of Water Street, beneath and east of the 11th Street Bridge (outlined in **red** and labeled Government Property on Figure 1). This area was formerly part of Anacostia Park, an urban waterfront park managed by NPS along both sides the Anacostia River stretching from the Maryland/District line to the confluence of the Potomac. In 2006, most of the property was transferred by the United States to the District, but a small portion is still managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Despite the transfer, NPS continues in its role as lead agency under CERCLA and is responsible for ensuring cleanup of the Site.

Washington Gas will clean up industrial waste containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (especially benzene), cyanide, and heavy metals in the government property soils, and investigate and evaluate clean-up alternatives associated with site contamination affecting the Anacostia River. The site is divided into two separate areas for clean-up purposes: OU1 for surface and subsurface soil within the government property; and OU2 for groundwater and the Anacostia River's surface water and sediments. Washington Gas will continue to develop the OU2 Remedial Investigation Work Plan to address groundwater and the Anacostia River's surface water and sediments. The OU2 Investigation will proceed following Work Plan approval by NPS and the District.

Wastes generated from the many years of gas production on the Washington Gas property include metals, oil, tar, coal, and other related materials. These wastes were placed on the government property as fill material or migrated via groundwater under the property. Environmental investigations have confirmed that contamination extends from the Washington Gas property through the government property to the Anacostia River. Washington Gas currently operates a pump and treat system to address contaminated groundwater.

NPS OVERSIGHT AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

NPS will ensure that Washington Gas meets all deadlines and requirements established in the Consent Decree, Statement of Work, and OU1 Remedial Design and Remedial Action documents. NPS also will continue to update Site fact sheets as progress is achieved on this important project. Please check the Washington Gas – East Station Site webpage for updated information at www.nps.gov/nace/parkmgmt/apecp.htm. If you have questions concerning the information contained in this fact sheet, please contact Emily Ferguson, the NPS project manager for the site, at (202) 692-6066.