

Community Fact Sheet

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Washington Gas Site – Operable Unit 2 CERCLA Activity – Remedial Investigation

Fall 2015

OPERABLE UNIT 2 REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION BEGINS

In November 2015, the Washington Gas Light Company (Washington Gas) will begin the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) field work to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination in groundwater, surface water, and sediments of the Anacostia River resulting from historical operations at the Washington Gas East Station Property, which is shown in **brown** on Figure 1. The National Park Service (NPS), with support from the District of Columbia (District), will oversee all of Washington Gas's cleanup activities as part of a 2012 legal agreement under CERCLA¹.

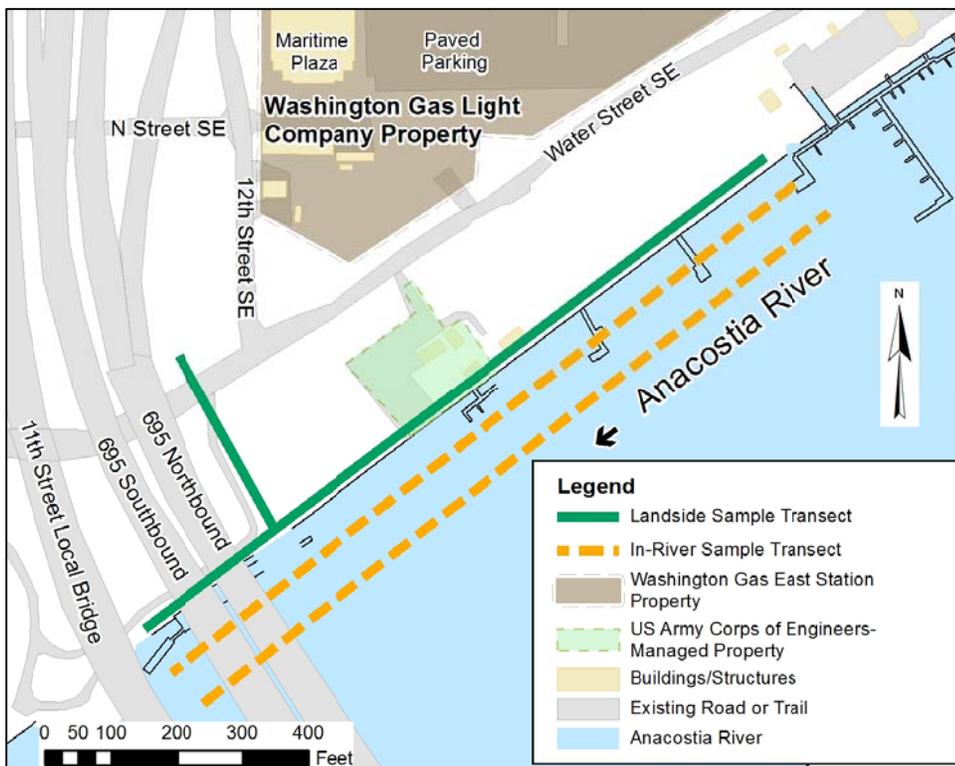
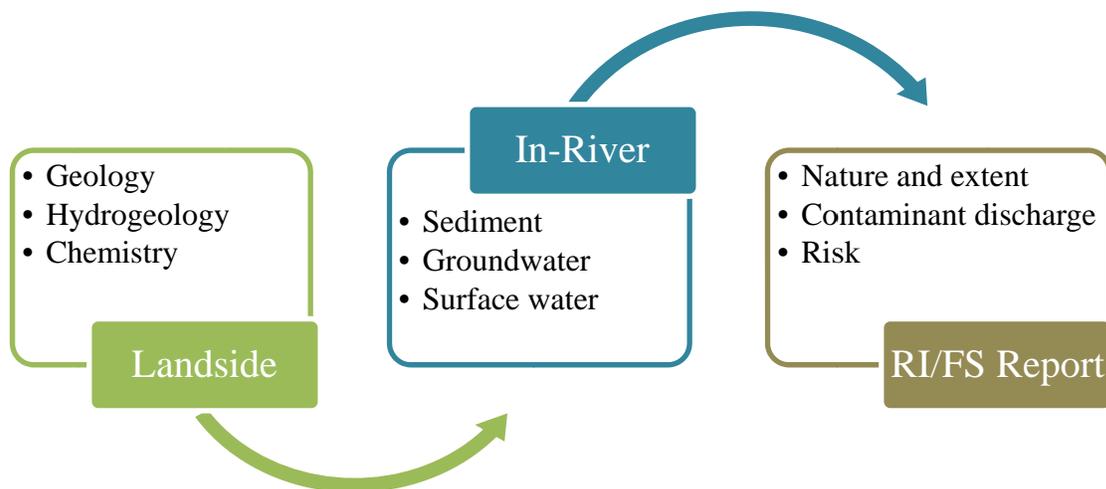


Figure 1. Map of planned investigation areas

The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of Site contamination in the groundwater that discharges to the Anacostia River and the nature and extent of Site contamination in surface water and sediments in the Anacostia River. The RI will be performed in two parts, as shown in the graphic below and described in more detail on the next page.



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

LANDSIDE RI

The Landside RI will include all RI activities performed on land, generally south of Water Street and east of 11th Street in Southeast Washington, D.C. It will provide information to develop an understanding of contamination in groundwater as much as 50 feet below the ground surface, as well as the pathways contaminants could flow through to move from the land into the Anacostia River. The landside investigation will focus on two lines, or transects, as shown in **green** on Figure 1. One transect will be placed along and parallel to the seawall at the Anacostia River's edge, and one transect will be placed perpendicular to the seawall, extending across Water Street. These transects are designed to evaluate contamination that could be moving away from the Washington Gas East Station Property toward and into the Anacostia River.

The landside RI will be performed in three mobilizations. During Mobilization 1, a drill rig will produce soil cores that can be examined for soil types, particularly those that might provide easy pathways for contaminants to move along. Coal tar product present in existing monitoring wells will also be analyzed. During Mobilization 2, a drill rig with a profiling attachment will measure how easily water can move through



Figure 2. General location of OU2 RI field work

these pathways, and collect groundwater samples for contamination analysis. In Mobilization 3, a series of groundwater monitoring wells will be installed at various locations and depths along each transect, based on information gathered from the two previous mobilizations. Groundwater samples will be collected during Mobilization 3 to more accurately determine contaminant concentrations. At the end of the landside RI, all data will be compiled and used to identify areas in the Anacostia River that could be at risk of being contaminated by Site contaminants.

IN-RIVER RI

The in-river RI will include all RI activities performed in the Anacostia River and will focus on two transects in the river, shown as **orange** dashed lines on Figure 1, both parallel to the seawall. The locations of these transects may be revised based on the findings of the landside investigation.

The in-river RI will follow the landside work and will be performed in two mobilizations, beginning with Mobilization 4, which is a hydrographic survey that will create a contour map (depicting shapes and features) of the bottom of the Anacostia River and any utilities. This will assist with Mobilization 5, when samples of the in-river media (sediments, pore water in sediment, groundwater beneath the River, and surface water) will be collected from locations along the two proposed transects (shown as **orange** dashed lines on Figure 1). Analyses of the different media will include chemistry, toxicity testing, and forensic fingerprinting to evaluate the source of contamination. If the extent of Site-related contaminants remains uncertain at the end of the in-river RI, additional sampling will be performed.

RI/FS REPORT

The RI/FS report will summarize the investigation, determine if the results show an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, and identify potential cleanup alternatives to address the risk.

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 <http://www.nps.gov/nace/learn/management/washingtongas.htm>.