OPERABLE UNIT 2 IN-RIVER REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION BEGINS

In March 2017, the National Park Service (NPS) will direct Washington Gas Light Company (Washington Gas) to implement the next phase of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of groundwater contamination related to the Washington Gas East Station Property, (shown in brown on Figure 1). The next phase, which is the in-river investigation, aims to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination in groundwater (beneath the river), surface water, and sediments of the Anacostia River resulting from historical operations at the Washington Gas East Station Property. NPS, in consultation with the District of Columbia (District), will oversee this investigation in accordance with the terms of a 2012 settlement agreement under CERCLA.1

The in-river RI will focus on two transects in the Anacostia River, shown as orange dashed lines on Figure 1, both parallel to the seawall. In fall of 2016, Washington Gas completed drilling activities, including geological coring, grab groundwater sampling, and installing monitoring wells along the landside transects shown in green on Figure 1, and is now collecting groundwater samples and performing a tidal survey to finish the landside work.

Washington Gas has recently completed a survey and contour map of the Anacostia River bottom and utilities. NPS will use the contour map and the landside RI results to approve the locations for collecting samples of in-river media (sediments, pore water in sediment, groundwater beneath the River, and surface water) along the two proposed transects (shown as orange dashed lines on Figure 1). The work will be conducted from a boat on the Anacostia River and is anticipated to take approximately two months to complete. The samples will be analyzed for chemistry, toxicity testing, and forensic fingerprinting to evaluate the source and potential effects of any contamination. If the extent of Washington Gas-related contaminants remains uncertain at the end of the in-river RI, additional sampling will be performed.

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 OU2 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study documents. NPS also 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 http://www.nps.gov/nace/learn/management/washingtongas.htm.

1 CERCLA is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund. The settlement between Washington Gas, the District, and NPS was finalized in a Consent Decree in September 2012 and requires Washington Gas to perform work subject to the oversight and approval of NPS, in consultation with the District.