

# Community Fact Sheet

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Capital Region  
National Capital Parks – East

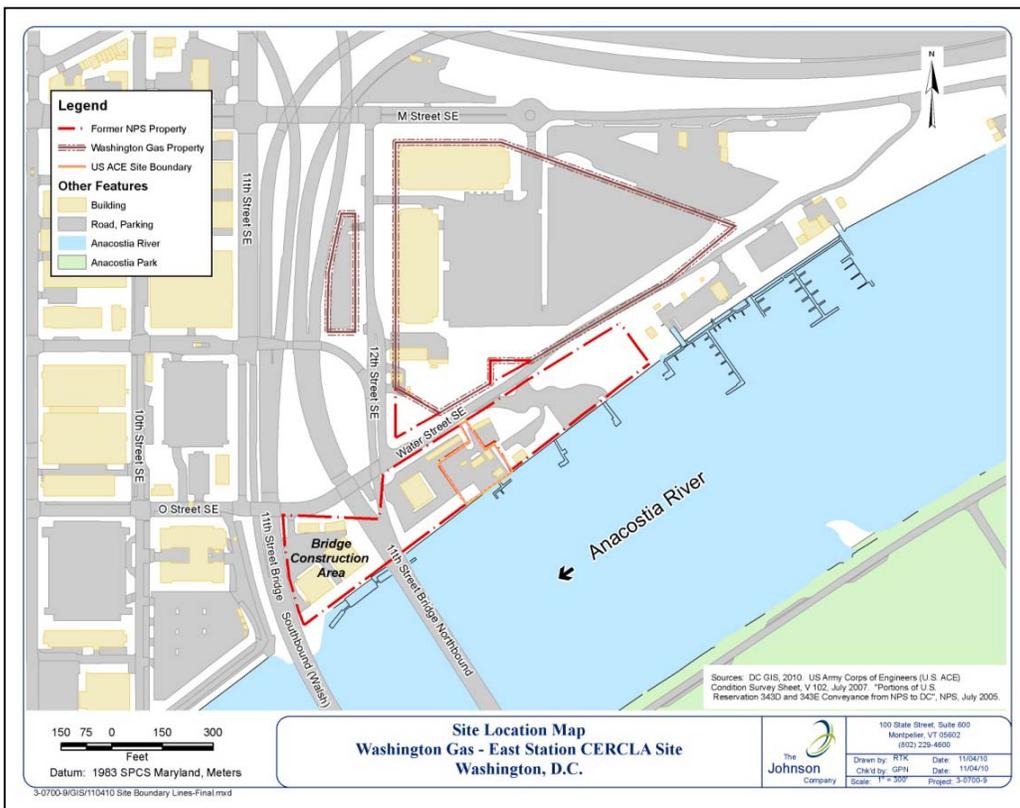
Fall 2011

## Washington Gas – East Station Site CERCLA Activities

### SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

The Washington Gas – East Station Site is located in Washington, D.C., generally south of M Street, SE, and east of 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The Site is defined as the area where hazardous substances released from past Washington Gas Light Company (WG or Washington Gas) gas manufacturing operations have come to be located, including contaminated Anacostia River sediments. The site is being investigated and cleaned up by NPS pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The primary focus of the current CERCLA activities is on the area southeast of Water Street between the eastern side of the southbound 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and the wooded area southwest of the Anacostia Marina (the area outlined in **brown** on the figure below), and in the Anacostia River. Portions of this property are owned



by the federal government, and the remainder is owned by the District of Columbia government. This area is referred to as the government property for ease of reference.

WG manufactured gas continuously from 1888 to 1948, and intermittently until the mid-1980s, on portions of the area between 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Water Street, and M Street (outlined in **red** on the adjacent figure and referred to as the WG property). The WG property is upgradient of the government property. Coal and oil were the principal gas-manufacturing feedstocks, and gasification

by-products included tar, oil, coal, lampblack, and coke. The principal solid residual, coke, was recycled as plant fuel, sold commercially, or used in filter beds to purify process water, in turn producing off-specification coke contaminated with tar and oil. The plant was demolished in 1986, and the facility above-ground oil storage tanks were removed in 1997.

Operation of the manufactured gas facility caused contamination of soil, groundwater, and river sediments in the area.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Beginning in 1983, a number of environmental investigations, including a remedial investigation/feasibility study, were conducted at the Site to evaluate the precise nature and extent of contamination and to analyze cleanup alternatives. Those investigations showed that the Site, including the government property, was contaminated with industrial waste from WG containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (especially benzene), cyanide, and heavy metals. Groundwater at the Site, both shallow and deep, is contaminated with non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL). Additionally, Site-related contaminants have been detected in Anacostia River sediments. Based on the results of these investigations, and in accordance with CERCLA, the National Park Service (NPS) has determined that the following activities will be undertaken:

- (1) Removal of the top one foot of contaminated surface soils and replacement with clean fill on the government property;
- (2) Removal and replacement of certain contaminated subsurface soils up to a total depth of three feet below ground surface in that same area;
- (3) Full characterization of the nature and extent of site-related contaminants in the groundwater, surface water, and sediments of the Anacostia River; and
- (4) Analysis of an array of cleanup alternatives to decide the appropriate remedial action needed to address site-related contaminants impacting the Anacostia River.

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

To prevent contaminants from migrating off-site, groundwater is currently being pumped, treated, and discharged off-site; the extracted NAPL is being collected for off-site disposal. Additionally, portions of the Site are fenced and signs are posted to control access.

NPS and the District of Columbia are nearing the conclusion of negotiations with Washington Gas by which the work identified above will be implemented.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The administrative record file, which contains the documents upon which the selection of cleanup action was based, is available for public review at the following two locations:

National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Drive S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020  
Contact: Emily Ferguson  
Phone: (202) 692-6033  
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

National Park Service  
1050 Walnut Street, Suite 220  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
Contact: Greg Nottingham  
Phone: (303) 415-1483  
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions concerning the information contained in this fact sheet, please contact Emily Ferguson, project manager, at (202) 692-6033.