

**New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) Long Branch Plant Site Update  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)  
Site Remediation & Waste Management Program  
December 2005**

This report is provided in response to a request by the Concerned Citizens Coalition of Long Branch (CCC) for monthly updates on work conducted and planned at four areas associated with the former Long Branch Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP).<sup>\*</sup> These areas are:

- the former MGP (including the former Conrail properties, the eastern off-site property, and the former Jerry Morgan Park)
- the off-site portion of Troutmans Creek that flows north of the MGP
- residential areas where the community has expressed concern about potential soil contamination (Long Branch Avenue, Seaview Avenue, Grant Court and Ellis Avenue)
- the former Seaview Manor housing complex

All work is consistent with NJDEP's Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, which were developed to ensure remedial actions protect human health and the environment.

### **1) Long Branch Plant**

#### **Red Brick Building**

In October 2005 NJNG began field activities to delineate the trichloroethene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) contamination in the soil beneath the concrete pad where the red brick building was located, and ground water sampling to evaluate potential ground water impacts. NJNG was scheduled to submit a Remedial Investigation Report/Remedial Action Work Plan (RIR/RAWP) to address the subsurface soils in November 2005. However, NJNG did not begin the field activities for this area of the site until October 2005 and NJDEP is currently working with NJNG regarding an acceptable due date for the RIR/RAWP. NJDEP expects to render a decision in January 2006. The remedy would essentially consist of removing the remaining concrete slabs, any underground storage tanks (if they exist) and contaminated soil, followed by capping the area consistent with the rest of the site. If ground water impacts are found, they will be addressed as part of the site-wide ground water remedial action.

#### **Soil Gas Investigation**

In August 2005 NJNG submitted a Sub-Slab Sampling Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) that detailed proposals to investigate potential vapor intrusion at the Talco and Atlantic Plumbing Supply Company (APSC) buildings. NJDEP conditionally approved the RIWP in September 2005 and the sampling for the Talco property is completed. NJDEP expects to receive a RIR summarizing the findings of the soil gas investigation for the Talco property in February 2006. However, a court order issued as a result of the litigation between NJNG and

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<sup>\*</sup> For historical information about activities that NJDEP and NJNG have conducted at these areas, please refer to the monthly updates NJDEP has provided to CCC since January 2005.

APSC states that NJNG cannot have access to the APSC property until APSC vacates it, which should occur in September 2006. Remedial efforts will commence after this date.

#### Ground Water Investigation

In September 2005 NJDEP conditionally approved NJNG's Remedial Investigation Work Plan/Ground Water Pilot Test Work Plan, which contained proposals to delineate the dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) and conduct ground water treatment studies. NJNG mobilized its contractor during December 2005 and is still expected to meet their deadline of March 6, 2005 for submission of a combined RIR/RAWP to address site-wide ground water issues.

#### On-Site Portion of Troutmans Creek

Remediation of the southern on-site portion of the Troutmans Creek is pending since this work cannot be implemented until NJNG is allowed access to the APSC property. As noted above, these efforts will start after September 2006.

### **2) Troutmans Creek**

NJNG is expected to submit an Interim Remedial Action Work Plan in February 2006 detailing its proposals to implement the following:

- a. complete remediation of the corrugated metal pipe culvert in accordance with NJDEP's conditional approval letter dated 11/3/04;
- b. remove all contaminated sediments from the concrete box culvert beneath Seaview Avenue continuing north with in the creek channel to the southern end of the Joline Avenue bridge (at a minimum);
- c. remove the free/residual product from the creek and the creek banks.

NJNG is also expected to submit an Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA), including, but not limited to, conducting a benthic community survey, sediment toxicity testing and collecting sediment samples for analysis of site-related contaminants. The ERA is necessary to complete the Remedial Investigation and satisfy NJDEP's "Technical Requirements for Site Remediation."

### **3) Off-Site Residential Areas**

NJDEP collected soil samples from the right-of-ways along Long Branch Avenue, Seaview Avenue and Ellis Avenue and from Grant Court in May 2005. These samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, total petroleum hydrocarbons and metals. NJDEP expects to issue an RIR detailing its findings in January 2006.

### **4) Seaview Manor**

NJDEP finished reviewing the Remedial Action Report (RAR) that NJNG submitted for Block 400, Lot 7 and on December 16, 2005 issued a letter requesting that NJNG furnish additional information and documentation within 90 days. NJDEP expects NJNG to submit a separate RAR for the remaining parcels by January 13, 2006, except for the culvert (see below).

#### Culvert Status

NJNG removed two feet of soil from the culvert area and capped it during the remedial action for Block 400, Lots 6 and 7. The removal of the culvert and any underlying contamination will occur in the spring and summer of 2006.