

# Community Fact Sheet

## Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Rogers Clark National  
Historical Park

December 2013



### A SITE HISTORY

The George Rogers Clark Memorial was constructed by the State of Indiana in the mid-1930s and became a unit of the National Park System in 1966, as the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park (Park). The Park consists of approximately 26 acres along the Wabash River in Vincennes, Indiana. Roughly 2.3 acres of the southwestern portion of the Park is the site of a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) that operated from 1859 to the early 1930s. The gas manufacturing process generated coke as a byproduct, as well as coal tar, a tar-water mixture, and waste water. Gas purification residues consisted of solids such as woodchips, corn cobs, or similar items impregnated with iron salts. During gas purification, these materials absorbed hydrogen sulfide and cyanide from the gas. These materials were often used as fill, or they may have been discarded as wastes. Contaminants typically associated with MGPs include tar and tar/water emulsions; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX); phenols; metals; and cyanide.



### AND NOW...

The area of the former MGP is covered by grass, asphalt pavement, and concrete sidewalks. There are no buildings on the land once occupied by the MGP. The parking lot for the Park Visitor's Center covers much of the area where the former gas holders and structures were located.

Previous environmental investigations at the former MGP and surrounding area (Site) were conducted by Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company (SIGECO), the successor to the last owner/operator of the MGP. These investigations identified a tar-like substance (most likely coal tar) in some subsurface soil, and contaminants typically associated with MGPs in surface and subsurface soils and groundwater in the vicinity of the former process areas and historical structures. The National Park Service (NPS) has determined that further environmental investigations must be conducted pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to ensure the full characterization of Site contaminants and risks.



NPS has entered into an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC) with SIGECO to complete an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) at the Site subject to NPS oversight. The EE/CA will determine the full nature and extent of contamination at the Site and assess potential risks posed to human and ecological receptors from exposure to such contamination. The resulting information will be presented in an EE/CA Report, along with the evaluation of removal action alternatives and, if deemed necessary, a recommended removal action for the Site. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the EE/CA Report, including the recommended removal action. Depending upon the findings of the first phase of the investigation, the EE/CA Report is expected to be available for review in 2015.

## FIELD INVESTIGATION FOR THE EE/CA WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY 2014

The field investigation will be conducted by SIGECO's contractor, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, under the oversight of NPS. The field work will be conducted in several phases in 2014 and will include soil and groundwater sampling at numerous locations in and around the Park. Soil samples will be collected using hand-operated corers or a drill rig. A drill rig also will be used to install groundwater monitoring wells.

**The Park will not be closed to traffic or visitors during this investigation. However, Park visitors are asked to take extra precautions for their safety. A safety zone of 25 feet will be maintained around any working drill rig. Drums will be isolated from the public because they could contain contaminated material from drilling and sampling activities.**

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

NPS issued a Community Involvement Plan in June 2013 that guides public involvement during the EE/CA process. The administrative record file, which contains all of the documents upon which the selection of a removal action will be based, has been established and is available for public review at the following location:

George Rogers Clark National Historical Park  
401 South Second Street  
Vincennes, Indiana 47591

Phone: 812-882-1776 ext. 202  
Mon-Sun 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Eastern  
**Contact: Frank Doughman**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

If you have questions concerning the field work or any aspect of the EE/CA process for the former MGP Site at the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, please contact Bettina Longino, NPS's Site Project Manager, at The Johnson Company at 802-229-4600.



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401 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
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