

Former Mount Hope Street Manufactured Gas Plant Cleanup Program Has Begun

Liberty Utilities
North Attleboro, Massachusetts

October 2020

After a great deal of planning, cleanup work at the site is finally underway. Liberty Utilities (Liberty) is appreciative of the cooperation and support of the community, town and its citizens.

As with most construction projects, there is going to be noise associated with the activities. We are constantly monitoring sound levels at the site and have already modified construction methods to mitigate nuisance noise, whenever possible. We are also working to install acoustic curtains on certain areas of perimeter fence to further mitigate noise for the surrounding community.

Activities COMPLETED in the past month:

- Constructed a fence around the work site;
- Installed erosion control measures;
- Cleared trees and vegetation;
- Created temporary gravel roads within the Site for construction vehicle traffic;
- Delivered trailers for use as construction offices;
- Demolished several structures existing within the limits of the excavation;
- Installed sheet pile to create a temporary dam in Mire Brook and cofferdams in Ten Mile River to allow removal of soil and sediment;
- Built a temporary water treatment system to treat water collected during the soil/sediment removal process; and
- Established a lay down area for stockpiling excavated materials and material for backfilling excavated areas.



Installing Sheet Pile

Activities SCHEDULED in the NEXT month:

- Installing additional sheet pile for soil/sediment removal;
- Pumping water from excavation areas to the water treatment system;
- Excavating soil/sediment;
- Applying foam to control odors, if necessary;
- Backfilling excavated areas with clean soils;
- Transporting (trucking) excavated material to an off-site treatment facility; and
- Restoring disturbed areas with topsoil and seeding.



Sheet Pile and Bracing

When excavation begins, we expect the work may produce odors at times. Coal tar smells similar to mothballs or roofing tar. Workers will be able to reduce the odors by covering with foam and tarps. In addition, the air will be monitored for dust and other emissions using equipment that works much like smoke detectors. Operations may be modified to address odor issues, should they exceed established thresholds or become a nuisance.

Background

Liberty has begun construction activities for the environmental cleanup of a former manufactured gas plant located at the southeast corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Mount Hope Street in North Attleboro.

This plant operated from the mid-1800s until 1928 when it ceased gas manufacturing operations and became a gas distribution facility. As with many industrial processes, gas manufacturing produced byproducts and residues, including coal tar. When these plants closed, the tar was often left on the property in underground structures. Over the years, the tar and other residues may have impacted the environment.

Liberty, along with its environmental contractor, AECOM, have studied the site extensively. These studies have helped identify where residues or environmental impacts are located. The areas requiring attention include portions of Liberty's property, portions of the Ten Mile River and Mire Brook and portions of several adjacent properties.

How is Liberty addressing the environmental impacts?

Liberty previously completed cleanup actions to address environmental impacts within its operating area at 439 Mount Hope Street. Additional actions are underway at the Site to restore the environment at the former gas plant site and neighboring properties. These actions include:

- Removal of impacted soil.
- Removal of impacted sediment within select areas of the Ten Mile River and Mire Brook.
- Restoration of river, wetland, and upland areas.
- Returning adjacent properties to prior use.

How long will the cleanup project take?

With an August 2020 start date, the site work is anticipated to take an estimated eleven months to complete, depending on a number of factors including weather conditions. Once this work is completed, impacted areas will be restored. Vegetation will be planted, and other wetland mitigation efforts will be employed to restore these resource areas as close as possible to a pre-construction condition.

Where can I get more information?

We are committed to keeping you informed about our environmental activities at the former Mount Hope Street manufactured gas plant site. Please contact us if you have questions or require additional information:

Website: [LibertyUtilities.com/mthopestreetcleanup/](https://libertyutilities.com/mthopestreetcleanup/)
Email: mt-hope-street-clean-up@libertyutilities.com
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Installing Wellpoints for Dewatering



Erosion Control



Water Treatment System