

# Recent Changes to Chicago Manufactured Gas Plants sites

## Former Manufactured Gas Plant Sites

Chicago, Illinois

Feb. 2018

### For more information

See back page for complete list of contact information for EPA officials and others who are working on these sites.

### U.S. EPA Region 5

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### Heriberto León

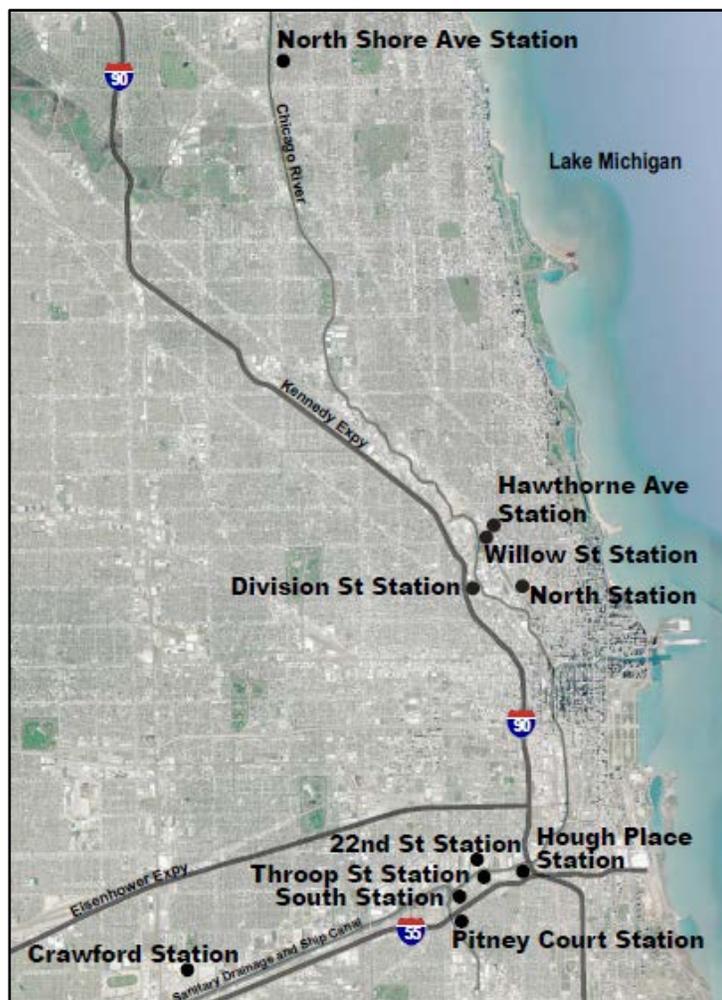
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EPA toll-free number 800-621-8431,  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays

Visit [www.epa.gov/il/manufactured-gas-plant-sites-peoples-gas-and-north-shore-gas](http://www.epa.gov/il/manufactured-gas-plant-sites-peoples-gas-and-north-shore-gas).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has removed portions of the 11 former manufactured gas plant, or MGP, sites along the Chicago River from its Superfund program, as these locations need no additional cleanup under the program. U.S. EPA has determined that no further cleanup or investigation activities are needed by the Agency on the North Shore Avenue, Hawthorne Avenue, Pitney Court, Hough Place Station sites, and four parcels at the North Station site. These upland (adjacent to the river) MGP sites that have been removed from the federal Superfund program are being referred to Illinois EPA to deal with any remaining issues and will then be available for reuse and redevelopment.

Bubbly Creek had been part of the South Branch River Operable Unit of the MGP sites and it is now removed from the Superfund program also. Any work being done to improve water quality will be managed under other environmental authorities including the Clean Water Act.



Map showing the 11 MGP sites along the Chicago River.

U.S. EPA's decision to remove the upland sites from the Superfund program using the Superfund alternative approach was based on prior work done and investigations at the sites. A portion of Bubbly Creek is next to the Pitney Court MGP site so this area was evaluated using this approach as well.

The Superfund alternative, or SA, approach uses the same investigation and cleanup process and standards that are used for sites listed on the National Priorities List, or NPL. The NPL is a roster of the nation's most hazardous waste sites eligible for Superfund cleanup. The SA approach is an option for communities and states that want cleanup without having to list the site on the NPL.

## **Background**

From the mid-1800s to the 1940s, MGPs produced fuels by heating coal; the fuels were widely used for street lighting, cooking, and heating homes. Environmental contaminants typically found at MGP sites include coal tars, compounds found in motor oils, metals, arsenic and cyanide.

### **North Shore Avenue** –*removed from Superfund program*

This 16-acre site at 6659 N. Kedzie Ave. is divided into five upland parcels. Cleanup activities on three parcels included excavation of contaminated material. The state issued no further remediation letters for these parcels. The remaining two parcels have not been investigated; however, there are no records of MGP activities occurring on these parcels.

### **Hawthorne Avenue Station** –*removed from Superfund program*

This site is about 4 acres and is north of the intersection of North Kingsbury Street and West Willow Street. The site consists of three parcels that are now removed from the Superfund program.

### **North Station** –*four parcels removed from Superfund program*

The site is about 9.7 acres and is bounded by North Crosby, West Division and West Hobbie streets and the North Branch Canal of the Chicago River. It is divided into five parcels. Four of the five parcels – closest and adjacent to the North Branch Canal – have been removed from the Superfund program.

### **Hough Place Station** –*removed from Superfund program*

This site is about 5.2 acres and is at 2500 S. Corbett St. Cleanup activities were completed in 2008. About 260,425 tons of material were removed for disposal offsite. The site will be returning to the state Site Cleanup Program.

### **Pitney Court Station** –*removed from Superfund program*

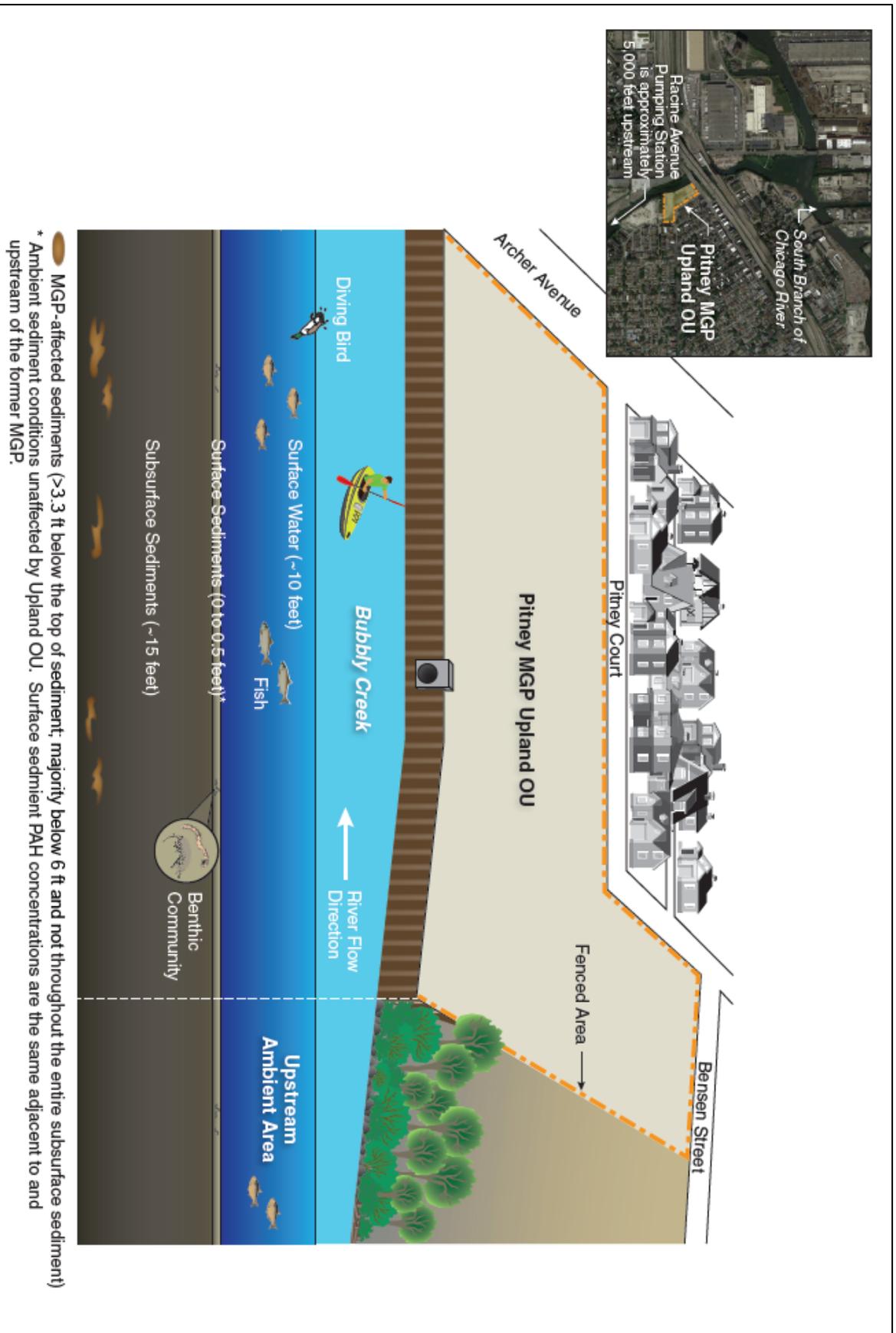
This 5-acre site and former MGP site in the Bridgeport neighborhood is wholly owned by Peoples Gas. About 225,000 tons of contaminated debris and soil were excavated and disposed offsite after completion of the work in 2008.

In 2015, Peoples Gas submitted a draft report indicating risks from soil, groundwater, and vapor intrusion from soil gas/groundwater emissions were within U.S. EPA's risk management range. The site did not pose unacceptable risks to human health and the environment and transferring the site back to the state would speed up the redevelopment of the area.

### **Bubbly Creek** – *removed from Superfund program*

U.S. EPA split the South Branch Chicago River/South Fork River Operable Unit, or OU, into two parts, the South Fork (Bubbly Creek), and the South Branch Chicago River (including the Turning Basin). This allowed U.S. EPA to accelerate its review of Bubbly Creek, which is only subject to contamination from Pitney Court Station.

Data from the sampling investigation of Bubbly Creek show that no additional cleanup is necessary. Sampling showed that the MGP waste is at least 3 feet below the top of the sediment surface, and extensive cleanup is unlikely to occur due to surrounding conditions upstream of the site. (*See the conceptual site model on p.3.*) Based on this information, the Bubbly Creek portion of the South Branch OU is now removed from the boundaries of the South Branch Site River OU under the Superfund Alternative approach.



*Bubbly Creek MGP Conceptual Site Model*

**For questions or comments about the MGP sites, contact:**

**U.S. EPA**

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