



101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20080
www.washingtongas.com

Eric C. Grant
Vice President
Corporate Relations
(202) 624-6091 Office
(202) 624-6699 Fax
egrant@washgas.com

October 12, 2010

Mr. Mike Smith
Chair
Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
c/o Aubin Maynard
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Smith:

Over the past few weeks, media reports and other public communications have been issued suggesting that Washington Gas' East Station property, located at 12th & Water Streets, SE, may be contributing to contamination of the Anacostia River. The Washington Gas East Station site has been described as one of six "known hot spots" by a coalition of environmental groups concerned about the progress of efforts to clean up the Anacostia River. Washington Gas has demonstrated responsible environmental leadership for more than 20 years in managing the East Station property. The following information provides a brief description of the East Station site and summary of measures being taken to address environmental impacts associated with the former manufactured gas plant located there.

- Washington Gas' property is located between 12th and M and Water Streets, SE. The land between Water Street and the Anacostia River is owned by the District of Columbia government and, prior to 2008, was owned by the National Park Service.
- Between 1888 and 1983, the company operated a gas manufacturing plant on the East Station site. The gas manufacturing process resulted in residual soil and ground-water contamination on both Washington Gas' property and the adjacent property owned by the District.
- Between 1983 and 1999, Washington Gas conducted six major environmental investigations culminating in a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

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- During the RI/FS process, Washington Gas worked collaboratively with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III, the D.C. Department of the Environment and the National Park Service. These agencies reviewed, approved and oversaw every step in the RI/FS process.
- Based on the results of the RI/FS, Washington Gas proposed a remedial plan, which provided for an extensive public participation process, overseen by the EPA.
- In 1999, the EPA approved the “East Station Decision Document” which summarizes comprehensive remedial requirements specific to the Washington Gas property. The requirements include groundwater pump and treatment and monitoring, free tar recovery, encapsulation of the soil, institutional controls and participation in a watershed-wide effort to address sediment contamination in the Anacostia River.
- The D.C. government approved a separate document which outlined requirements for pumping and treating groundwater to protect the Anacostia River.
- The Decision Document also requires a five-year effectiveness review of the remedial plan. Washington Gas conducted its first review in 2005 under the oversight of the EPA and the District Department of the Environment. The review indicated that Washington Gas has implemented the requirements of the Decision Document and that the remedial measures are sufficiently protective of human health and the environment.
- Washington Gas routinely submits reports on the pump and treatment operations, tar removal, ground water monitoring and other remedial measures to both D.C. and federal agencies. All such reports are available to the public.
- The company has spent several millions of dollars to address and remediate environmental impacts associated with our East Station site.
- The “pump and treat” system, which first began in 1976, is effective in preventing contaminated groundwater from reaching the river. The treatment system has been upgraded twice, once in 1993 and again in 2010.
- Washington Gas has been an active participant in the Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance since its inception in 1999, contributing our technical resources and financial support to fund investigations.

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- In 2008, Washington Gas voluntarily submitted a proposed sediment sampling plan to the EPA, the District of Columbia and the National Park Service to better understand the level and type of contaminants in the sediments adjacent to East Station and thereby determine appropriate remedial actions.
- Washington Gas was a founding member of the former Anacostia River Business Coalition which implemented many environmental improvement projects along the Anacostia River, including cleanups and low-impact storm water management measures. Over the years, the company has supported a variety of activities and organizations focused on cleaning up the river, including the Anacostia Watershed Society and the Anacostia Boat Club.

Washington Gas is proud of its work, collaborative partnerships and investment in helping to clean up the Anacostia River. We hope that the factual information provided here will further demonstrate that we are doing our part and taking a proactive role in helping to address this issue.

If you have questions about this information or any other issues related to Washington Gas' East Station property, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'WGS' followed by a stylized flourish.