

GZA
GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

*Engineers and
Scientists*

October 1, 2010
File No. 05.0043654.00-C

Mr. Joseph Martella
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908



530 Broadway
Providence
Rhode Island
02909
401-421-4140
Fax: 401-751-8613
<http://www.gza.com>

Re: *Short-Term Response Action Plan*
Former Tidewater Facility
Pawtucket, Rhode Island
RIDEM Case No. 95-022

Dear Mr. Martella:

On behalf of The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid), GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA) is pleased to present to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) this *Short-Term Response Action Plan* (STRAP) for the former Tidewater Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) and Power Plant site located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island (herein referred to as the "Site"). A Site *Locus Plan* is presented as Figure 1.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

This STRAP has been prepared to address one specific area of concern at the Site: an above ground portion of a former steel process pipe associated with former MGP facility operations. This section of piping runs parallel to the Seekonk River and is located in close proximity to the river edge. Certain sections of the piping are in disrepair and contain residual coal tar-like material. These coal tar-like materials have been observed on the ground surface and river embankment beneath this piping which may be contributing to intermittent sheen outbreaks recently observed along a limited portion of the Seekonk River adjacent to the Former Gas Plant Area (FGPA) of the Site. Photographs of this area of concern are attached in Appendix A. The observation of this sheen warrants response actions prior to completion of the *Site Investigation Report* and preparation of a *Remedial Action Work Plan* for the remainder of the property, in accordance with Section 6 of RIDEM's *Rules and Regulations for the Investigation and Remediation of Hazardous Material Releases* (Remediation Regulations) amended February 2004. This STRAP is designed to describe the procedures to mitigate potential releases from this former process piping and address observed surficial impacts.

BACKGROUND

This Site was the location of the former Tidewater Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) and the former Pawtucket No. 1 Power Station. The majority of the Site is currently vacant with the exception of an active natural gas regulating station, and active switching and electrical substations, both owned and operated by National Grid. The Site consists of approximately 28 acres located on the western bank of the Seekonk River in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.



A multi-colored sheen has been periodically observed since approximately [month] 2010 on the water surface of the Seekonk River adjacent to the FGPA, approximately 150 feet north of the existing temporary cap area (installed in December 2009 to mitigate a sheen area migrating from a portion of the riverbank, as described in a *Short Term Response Summary Report* dated February 1, 2010), as shown on Figure 2. National Grid responded by placing oil snares along the area of this newer sheen area; however a specific source of the sheen was not initially identified. During a waterfront survey conducted on August 30, 2010, an approximately 150-foot long above ground steel pipe, varying in diameter from 4 to 6 inches, was observed running parallel to the Seekonk River, approximately 150 feet north of the existing temporary cap area, as shown on Figure 2. The northern end of the pipe was observed to be capped above grade and the southern end terminates below grade. Upon further inspection, certain sections of this piping were noted to be in disrepair and coal-tar like materials were observed on the ground surface and river embankment beneath the piping. As described above, the presence of this piping and coal tar residuals may be contributing to the intermittent sheens observed in adjacent portions of the Seekonk River.

In an effort to mitigate these conditions, National Grid proposes to remove the above ground portions of this former process piping and coal tar-impacted surface materials adjacent to the pipe. The response action is intended to be a limited remedy for this locally observed condition only. National Grid is currently completing a *Site Investigation Report (SIR)* for the Site. As part of the SIR, a Site-wide remedy will be developed.

PROPOSED RESPONSE ACTIONS

The following sections present a description of the proposed response actions.

Pipe Removal

The above ground sections of pipe will be removed and disposed off-Site at a licensed disposal facility; the underground section of pipe on the southern end will be capped above grade with a blind flange. An approximately 5 square foot area of coal tar-impacted surface material observed in the vicinity of the damaged pipe will be removed and disposed off-Site at a licensed disposal facility. A non-woven geotextile will be placed over the removal area and the area will be backfilled to match surrounding grade with engineered material designed to stabilize the slope. In addition, residual, hardened coal tar-like material located on the river embankment will be manually removed and containerized with the removed surface soil described above and transported off-Site to a licensed receiving facility for thermal treatment or disposal.

Site preparation will include limited clearing of vegetation along a path to the work area to accommodate construction equipment working to remove the pipe and impacted surface materials. The pipe will be cut and removed in manageable lengths (approximately 10 to 15 feet) to minimize the need for clearing. The path to the work area will be flagged in the field and will be selected to minimize tree removal.

Environmental Protection Measures

The following measures will be employed during construction to limit potential environmental impacts:



- Maintain the existing oil snares in place during STRAP activities. Hay bales will be placed along the river on the north and south sides of the work area for approximately 30 feet on each side to limit sediment entering the river.
- All necessary permits will be obtained prior to the start of work. Based on the proposed work area, which is adjacent to the Seekonk River, an application will be submitted to the Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) for their review and approval. We anticipate that the work described in this application will be completed in late-October, assuming approval is granted by both RIDEM and CRMC.
- Once the area of concern has been addressed, a *Short Term Response Action Report* will be prepared in accordance with Rule 6.09 of the Remediation Regulations. The report will summarize field activities performed.

We trust the information presented in this letter report meets your current needs. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either of the undersigned or Michele Leone from National Grid at 781-907-3651.

Very truly yours,

GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Margaret S. Kilpatrick'.

Margaret S. Kilpatrick, P.E.
Senior Project Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John P. Hartley'.

John P. Hartley
Project Reviewer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James J. Clark'.

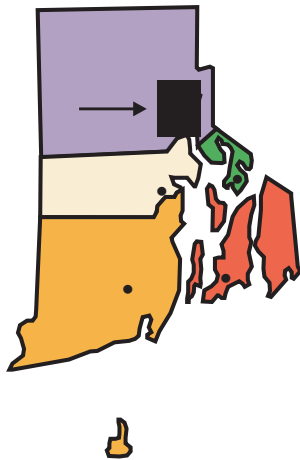
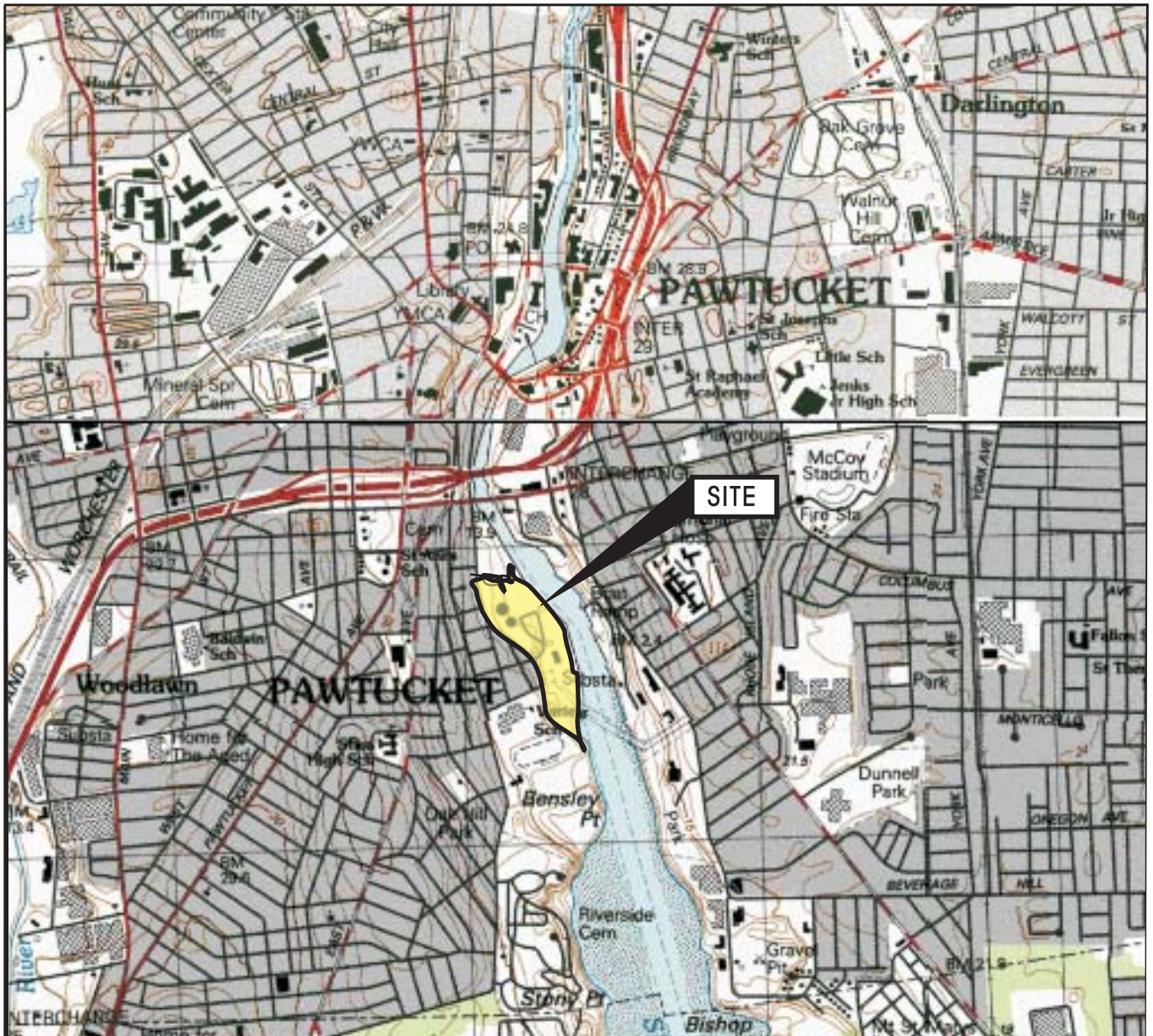
for
James J. Clark, P.E.
Principal

MSK/JJC:tja

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2
Appendix A – Photographs

cc. Michele Leone, National Grid

FIGURES



FROM USGS PROVIDENCE, RI QUADRANGLE MAP
 (DIGITAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS PROVIDED BY MAPTECH, INC.)
 (CONTOUR ELEVATIONS ARE IN METERS ABOVE NGVD, AT 3 METER INTERVALS)

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET



TIDEWATER FACILITY

PAWTUCKET
 RHODE ISLAND

LOCUS PLAN

JANUARY 2007

FIGURE NO. 1

APPENDIX A
PHOTOGRAPHS

FORMER TIDEWATER MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Photo 1: Shoreline area along FGPA where intermittent sheen is observed.



Photo 2: Broken pipe along riverbank. Pipe leak of apparent coal tar-like material.



**FORMER TIDEWATER MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND**

Photo 3: Close-up of damaged pipe and associated pipe leak.



J:\ENV\43654.msk\Reports\STRAP-Pipe Leak\43654 PHOTO PAGE.docx