



Information Sheet

Water Quality Investigation at Liberty Hill Road, Gilford, NH

June 17, 2005

Summary

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) and KeySpan Energy Delivery recently learned that in the early 1950s a gravel pit located at or near what is now 63 – 87 Liberty Hill Road was reported to have been used to dispose of some waste coal tar from the former gas plant located on Messer Street in Laconia. An explosion occurred at the gas plant in 1952 and the wastes were reported to have been disposed of in the gravel pit shortly thereafter during dismantling of the plant. At this time it is unknown whether other companies disposed of their waste at this location.

DES, working in partnership with KeySpan Energy Delivery, will be conducting an investigation in the area to determine whether disposal really took place, whether there are any effects from disposal, and what needs to be done to address any such effects, all in accordance with state regulations.

At this point, available information is being collected on activities in the area. One of the initial actions will be to test drinking water wells at the properties in the vicinity of Liberty Hill Road where it is believed the disposal took place. DES will perform the water testing, and will call to arrange a convenient time to collect the water samples. The testing will be for a range of chemicals. Preliminary results should be available within a few days, and results will be forwarded to the homeowner when the analysis is completed.

Housing development in the area appears to date from the late 1950s/early 1960s with all homes using private wells and septic systems. Although a review of historical water-testing records for nearby public water supply wells in the neighborhood did not show the presence of contaminants that would be associated with coal tar wastes and are in compliance with drinking water standards, DES and KeySpan would like to collect and confirm any information you might have, such as previous water testing results and well records.

We will contact the community before any additional investigations are performed. Updates on the results of the well testing and the progress of the investigation into the reports of past dumping will be fully shared with the public. If you have any questions or further information about this area, please feel free to contact the following people:

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Again, thank you for your attention to this matter. DES appreciates your cooperation.