



Former Taylorville Manufactured Gas Plant FAQs

Have a question?

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Introduction: We know Taylorville-area residents have questions about Ameren's work at the site of a former manufactured gas plant. This FAQ was created to address these questions.

Q. Why is Ameren back at the former CIPS manufacturing plant site in Taylorville?

A. Ameren has been remediating groundwater at the former CIPS manufactured gas plant in Taylorville since 1995, with a groundwater "pump and treat" system. The treatment system has been successful; subsurface constituents have been removed and only low concentrations of residual constituents in groundwater remain on site. With advancements in technology and remediation options since 1995, Ameren has been exploring alternative methods with the Illinois EPA to address residual concentrations of constituents in groundwater at the former manufactured gas plant site. One promising alternative method is in-situ soil solidification (ISS), which has been used successfully at remediation sites nationwide.

Q. Did Ameren inform the Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA regarding this new technology?

A. Groundwater remediation at the former manufactured gas plant site in Taylorville is managed by the Illinois EPA via an agreement with the U.S. EPA. Any change in the groundwater remedy for the site must be approved by Illinois EPA. Ameren is meeting both U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA environmental standards to support beneficial reuse of the property for the local community.

In July 2023, Ameren hosted a public meeting in Taylorville to provide information regarding the proposed ISS technology. In August 2023, following a public notification and 30-day comment period, Ameren and the Illinois EPA initiated a pilot project to evaluate ISS to remediate via deep soil mixing below groundwater. The purpose of using ISS at the Taylorville MGP site instead of continuing to pump and treat groundwater is to stabilize and contain residual constituents in soil and groundwater at the site and greatly reduce the time required to meet the project's remediation objectives. The groundwater "pump and treat" system at the site has been successful in remediating groundwater and there have been no exceedances of applicable remediation objectives in off-site groundwater for many years. However, the "pump and treat" system would likely take many decades to remove the remaining low residual concentrations in on-site groundwater.



Q. In addition to the public notification and 30-day comment period, did Ameren communicate with the City of Taylorville, local residents or local media?

A. Ameren initially met with City representatives in July 2022, followed by subsequent correspondence, phone calls, and email. Members of Ameren's Environmental Services team placed multiple fact sheets in the mailboxes of nearby residents on Webster Street. Members of the Environmental Services team spoke with the newspaper two times and WTIM radio two times to discuss the scope of the in-situ work each step of the way.

Q. When work began several residents have complained about an odor in the air near the former manufactured gas plant site. Is there an odor associated with the remediation work?

A. Odors, which smell like mothballs, can result when soil is disturbed. During the pilot study, Ameren implemented real-time air monitoring at the site and suppressed odors using measures approved by Illinois EPA. However, in October the Illinois EPA requested that Ameren suspend the pilot project while it investigated odor complaints from the public.

Q. Will this odor be present during the City's Christmas in Park, beginning Dec. 8 through Dec. 24?

A. No.

Q. Do the odors pose any health concerns to the public?

A. No, the odor that may be experienced during ISS will smell like moth balls and can be smelled at concentrations well below those that present a health or environmental concern. Ameren is monitoring odors and constituent concentrations in air to ensure that the project does not create risk for the public, our contractors, or our coworkers.

Q. Are there any health concerns walking in Manners Park for the festival or at any time during the remediation process?

A. No.

Q. What is the white foam seen on the site and what is it used for?

A. The white foam is an odor suppressant foam used in construction and remediation activities that is applied to soil stockpiles and excavation areas to suppress odors, dust, and vapors.





Q. There is a hole dug on the site. Where did that soil go?

A. In order to perform ISS at depth and manage materials from the mixing activities, the first 10 feet of soil in the work area was removed and properly disposed at the Five Oaks Landfill in Taylorville, which is an EPA-approved landfill for this purpose.

Soil within this area of the site was previously removed and replaced in the late 1980s, and the shallow soil recently excavated and removed from the site was not impacted. However, the excavated soils were sampled, to demonstrate the soil met disposal specifications, and were properly disposed at the Five Oaks Landfill in Taylorville.

Q. How sure are you that this in-situ technology will work?

A. ISS has been used successfully at other remediation sites across the country, including other Ameren manufactured gas plant sites. Ameren believes that this technology can safely address the remaining groundwater impacts beneath the Taylorville MGP site, reducing the current remediation schedule by 100 years or more.

Q. If you elect to stop the remediation with the in-situ technology, what happens to the site, the hole and ground water monitoring?

A. If the ISS project is not allowed to proceed, the excavation will be backfilled and groundwater treatment and monitoring will continue under the existing consent order with Illinois EPA.

We will continue to operate the groundwater pump and treat system that has been in operation for several years.

Q. What is planned for the site after the remediation is complete?

A. As part of the remediation, the metal building on the site will be removed. The fencing at the site will remain for the time being but may be removed in the future. No decision has been made about the use of the property once the remediation is complete.

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