



FACT SHEET - Manners Park – Adjacent to Ameren Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Background Manners Park is located just east of the Ameren former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site along South Webster Street. Manners Park (Park) is a public park that is operated by the Taylorville Park District. The MGP facility operated until 1932 and sat idle for 55 years until 1987 when 12,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed and disposed. A groundwater pump and treat system has been operated at the MGP site for decades. The main contaminants of concern at the MGP site are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) including polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PNAs/PAHs).

Ameren Remediation Activities In addition to soil removal, soil treatment, and groundwater pump and treat, Ameren implemented in-situ soil solidification and stabilization (ISS) in August and September 2023. Implementation of ISS caused mobilization and partitioning of VOCs from subsurface soil to ambient air due to the ISS mechanical mixing process. VOC odors caused by the ISS created a public nuisance and possible air inhalation exposure risk to Park visitors. In response to citizen complaints, the Illinois EPA required that Ameren cease the ISS work in early October 2023. Ameren's air monitoring data collected during the ISS work indicates VOC releases to ambient air. The VOC releases to ambient air decreased when the ISS work was terminated. Ameren's ISS work caused further mistrust between Park visitors and the IEPA, USEPA and Ameren. Citizen mistrust led to a decrease in Park use by residents in 2024.

Manners Park Sampling and Testing – April 2024 To address Park visitor concerns, the Taylorville Park District hired Universal Engineering Sciences (UES) to perform surface soil and soil vapor sampling and testing at the Park. The purpose of the sampling and testing was to assess potential exposure risk to Park visitors.



More than 20 surface soil samples and six soil vapor samples were collected and tested. The PAHs that exist at the MGP site are also present in background soils due to wide-spread man-made sources such as fuel combustion and industrial processes. PAHs are persistent compounds in the environment. Overall, the PAH concentrations detected in surface soil samples at Manners Park are either within IEPA published background concentrations (non-metropolitan statistical areas) or are below the IEPA residential cleanup concentrations. Soil vapor results did not indicate an exposure risk via Construction Worker or residential scenario.

Return to Normal Park Use Independent sampling and testing at Manners Park supports that there is not a current exposure risk to Park visitors from the Ameren MGP site.