



## INDOOR AIR ASSESSMENT

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**At the direction of the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), Washington Gas (WG) is assessing environmental conditions of soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, and air in the vicinity of the former West Station site. Sampling and analysis of indoor air is part of this process. WG has engaged GEI Consultants, Inc (GEI) to plan and perform this work.**

### Background

Washington Gas once owned and operated a Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) known as the "West Station Gas Works" in Washington, DC. As the first federally-chartered gas company in the U.S., Washington Gas was responsible for providing light to the Capitol and the White House, among other things. To meet gas production requirements, Washington Gas manufactured gas from coal at the site using existing technologies, in accordance with practices and requirements of that era. The manufactured gas process produced byproducts, such as coal tar and other chemicals that were used in the chemical, dye, and pharmaceutical industries. Some byproducts may remain underground in the areas of historic MGP operations, consistent with practices of the time.

As technologies advanced, and with the development of environmental law in the latter part of the 20th Century, both industry and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began to identify and investigate the potential presence of historical byproducts and take remedial steps if needed to protect human health and the environment.

### Q. Why is WG conducting an indoor air assessment?

Previous indoor air testing at the Watergate Complex in the late 1990s showed no MGP constituents in indoor air at levels that exceeded regulatory specified risk levels applicable at the time. DOEE has directed WG to conduct a current evaluation.

### Q. What is WG testing for?

We will be looking for those constituents typically associated with former MGP operations, which include benzene, naphthalene, and other organic compounds associated with residual coal tar from the MGP process. The sample data will be compared to regulatory indoor air screening levels to verify whether constituents are below currently applicable risk thresholds.

### Q. Are the sampling plans specific to each building?

Yes. GEI worked with each building manager to tour the lowest levels of each building and obtain original construction plans. Based on this information, building-specific work plans were developed and reviewed by DOEE.

### Q. How long will the sampling take?

The assessment is a multi-step process. The first step is to complete a survey of the area where the air testing will be performed. A GEI representative will identify existing potential background sources of chemicals present in indoor air (i.e., sources unrelated to historic MGP material such as candles, cleaning supplies, smoking, petroleum products, and vehicle exhaust). Anything that can be removed will be relocated or stored elsewhere temporarily prior to and during sampling.

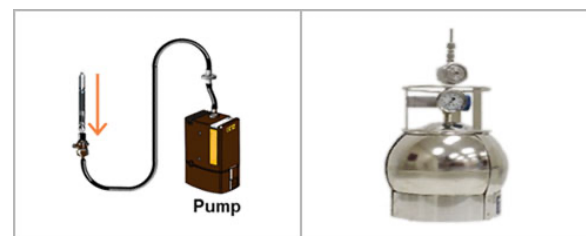
The second step is to collect both indoor air and background samples for each building over a 48-hour period by placing small air canisters and pumps in the lowest levels of each building. One type of canister has a negative pressure and a regulator to slowly draw air in over the period of the testing time. It is a silent process. The second type is a small pump that pushes the air over a sampling "rod" that captures the particles. There is a low hum associated with its operation. The sample collection is performed over two consecutive 24-hour periods. All samples will then be sent to a licensed laboratory for analysis and the data will be reported to DOEE.

A follow-up sampling event may be conducted as a third step, depending on the results of the initial sampling. This would be done to confirm the results and assess the source of the data.

Two rounds of sampling are required. The first round will be performed during the warmer season so that air conditioning effects can be assessed. The second round will be performed in the colder season so that heating effects can be assessed.

### Q. Whom should I contact with questions?

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the WG Community Information Line at (202) 964-5140.



Two types of sampling equipment will be used.