

CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson
Public Information and Communications Manager
City of Salisbury
132 North Main Street
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144
Work Phone: 704-638-2113 Cell: 704-213-1050
Home Phone: 704-633-7123
Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>
Work Email Contact: kwilk@salisburync.gov
Home Email Contact: kwilkinson2@carolina.rr.com

Salisbury City Council Receives Duke Energy Report on Manufactured Gas Plant Site Remediation *Phase I of Environmental Upgrade Process to Begin July 10th*

Salisbury, NC – July 9, 2006 – The Salisbury City Council received a presentation at their Wednesday, July 5th meeting, from Duke Energy representatives regarding the disposal of Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) materials, deposited over 46 years ago. District Manager Randy Welch and Environmental Project Manager Jessica Bednarcik reiterated that although the MGP materials, located at the 2.5 acre corner site of E. Liberty and N. Long Street, pose no immediate threat to the environment or people working in or around the site, it is important to remedy the results of past practices by upgrading environmental quality.

Phase I of the excavation and replacement of 9,000 tons of MGP materials will begin July 10, 2006, pending weather conditions. Bednarcik explained that once excavation begins, the first phase of the project has an estimated completion date of six to eight weeks. Trucks will move on and off the site between 8:30 am and 7 pm with minimized rush hour trucking. Gravel and/or plastic sheeting will be utilized to keep down the dust tracking from truck wheels onto neighborhood streets. The clean up will be performed in multiple phases and remove soils left over from the MPG which operated until roughly 1960.

The site, developed as a MGP in 1901, was one of approximately 3,000 MGPs nationwide, following the end of WWII. MGPs manufactured gas from coal through basic extraction techniques of heating coal and drawing away the resulting gas, popular for street lamp use at the time. A fact sheet distributed by Duke Energy during the presentation, notes that Duke purchased the site in 1935 and then sold the site to Piedmont Natural Gas in 1951. Although MGP operations were active until 1960, Piedmont Natural Gas has safely utilized the site as its operations center since that time.

The Duke Energy team explained that worker and public safety is a top priority during the excavation and replacement of the approximately 450 truckloads of MGP materials now buried underground. An on-site health hygienist will provide constant environmental air monitoring and on-site workers will utilize personal air monitors. The work process design offers a health and safety plan similar to those Duke Energy has previously utilized to environmentally rectify three sites in South Carolina and five sites in North Carolina. Citizens will notice the installation of a black fence cloth along E. Liberty Street

fencing and along the railroad to assist in containing dust, noise and potential nuisance odors. Bednarcik noted that residents may detect an odor similar to that of moth balls, but stated that although a nuisance, the odor is not a health issue. Removed MGP materials will be trucked to a landfill located in Concord. Welch and Bednarcik answered questions of concern posed by Councilman William "Pete" Kennedy regarding ozone levels and public safety. Bednarcik explained that the total health index is required to remain below Level 1 at all times.

City Manager Dave Treme thanked the team for their thorough report and noted, "Duke Energy is acting very responsibly" and "taking every precaution." Treme expressed his gratitude for a "very thorough and professional job." In addition, Mayor Susan Kluttz thanked the team for their report and adds today, "We as a City are always concerned about the health and safety of our citizens and the welfare of our environment. Our Council strives to provide an informed community setting for our residents."

For more information or questions regarding the Salisbury Manufactured Gas Plant Remediation Project, please contact Duke Energy District Manager, Randy Welch, at 704-638-4050 or Environmental Project Manager, Jessica Bednarcik, at 704-382-8768. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the World Wide Web at www.salisburync.gov.

###