



Facts About...

1st Plant (MD-147)
(State Master List)

Site Location

1st Plant was a coal gas manufacturing plant (CGMP) located at the intersection of Guilford and Saratoga Streets in Baltimore City, Maryland. The coordinates for the site are 39° 17.5342' N latitude and 76° 36.6669' W longitude. The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation identifies the site as Section 12, Block 0612, Lot 010, Map 0004. A municipal parking garage is now located on the site of the 1st plant.

Site History

1st Plant was the first coal gas manufacturing facility in the United States. Originally located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Guilford and Saratoga Streets in Baltimore City, the plant was operated from 1816 to 1847 by the Gas Light Company of Baltimore. The plant output reached 35 million cubic feet of gas per day by 1846. The plant closed in 1847.

At the 1st Plant, coal gas was first purified by running the product through lime water to remove sulfur. Waste from the coal gasification and filtration process included sulfur, coal tar and ferrocyanide. Spent material was discarded; however the refuse area is unidentified.

Environmental Investigations

MDE performed a Preliminary Assessment of the site in June 1985.

Current Status

The lot once occupied by 1st Plant is now under a municipal parking garage. There are no indications of CGMP waste remaining on the property. Excavations for the parking structure likely removed any waste that may have remained on the property.

Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3493.

Last Update: June 24, 2010

