

# **FAIRFIELD COAL GASIFICATION PLANT**

## **(Fairfield, Iowa)**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The site is located in the center of the SE 1/4 of Section 26, T72N, R10W, Jefferson County, Iowa. The 0.5-acre site occupies all of Lot 5 in Block 1 of the Southwestern Addition to Fairfield and that part of South Seventh Street between Burlington and Washington Avenues and is owned by Alliant Energy Corporation. The site was entered on the Registry in August 1989. The EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List in August 1990.

### **SITE CLASSIFICATION**

**In 2000 this site was reclassified “d” Site Properly Closed, Requires Continued Management.**

### **TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HAZARDOUS WASTE**

A coal gasification plant was operated at the site from 1878 until 1950, when the plant was closed and the equipment removed. During its operation, coal tar, iron oxide wastes, and associated coal gasification wastes were generated at the plant. Unknown quantities of these wastes were disposed of at the site, contaminating the soil and the surficial aquifer. Iowa Electric contracted a field investigation of the site during 1985-1986. The EPA began investigating the site in 1986. Groundwater samples collected from monitoring wells at the site indicate the presence of several hazardous substances. The contaminants identified in groundwater include Benzene, Toluene, Xylenes, Styrene, Ethylbenzene, 2,4-Dimethylphenol, Phenanthrene, Anthracene, Pyrene, Chrysene, Benzo(a)anthracene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Naphthalene, Fluorene.

### **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERS**

The site is located within Fairfield, Iowa. Most city residents obtain their drinking water from a municipal system that has deep wells and storage lakes located northeast of the city. An unnamed stream accepts the surface runoff from the site. It discharges into Cedar Creek 2.9 miles southwest of the site.

### **SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT, MONITORING OR REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

The EPA is the lead agency at the site.

In 1990 the EPA issued a Record of Decision that included excavation of coal tar and contaminated soil and for treatment of contaminated ground water. A ground water treatment pilot study was completed in 1992. And remedial action began in 1993.

Alliant Energy conducted source (coal tar) and contaminated soil removal at the Fairfield Coal Gasification site from 1993 to 1995. Ground water treatment has been conducted from 1990 to 2001. Monitoring has determined that contaminated groundwater has not migrated beyond the property boundary. The ground water treatment system was shut down in 2001 to conduct a one-year monitored natural attenuation (MNA) study. Two additional monitoring wells were installed to track the results of the study and will be sampled quarterly.

Institutional controls will be implemented to prevent the use of groundwater in the affected area that include deed restrictions and environmental easements to be administered by IDNR. The department will continue to coordinate with the EPA to assure proper cleanup.

2003: The Monitored Natural Attenuation study was extended for two more years, with quarterly ground water monitoring conducted in February, May and August of 2003.

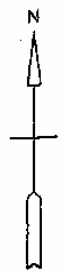
2004: An annual report will be submitted to EPA, a Monitoring Natural Attenuation report will be prepared to document and evaluate this remedial approach for the period between September 2002 and August 2003. Four quarterly MNA ground water sampling events were conducted.

2005: A Monitoring/Natural Attenuation report was submitted that documents and evaluates the effectiveness of this remedial approach for the period between November 2003 to August 2004. The report recommended additional five-year MNA study, which is under review by EPA. One monitoring event was conducted. Based on the data collected to date, a revised approach to ground water management will be developed and proposed in 2006.

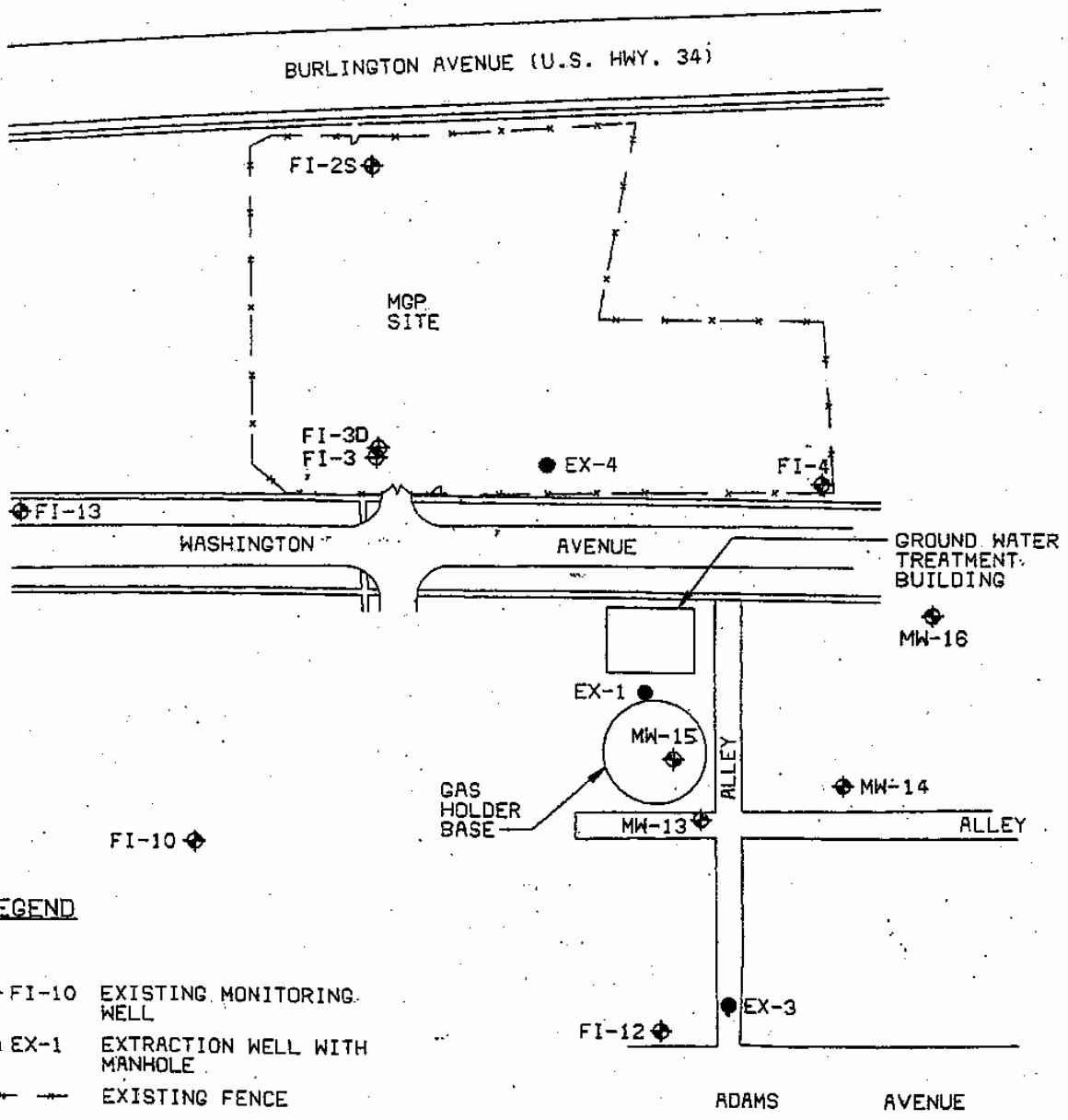
2006: A Technical Impracticability Evaluation Report was submitted for the site and to propose that EPA invoke a TI waiver for the site. This report also recommended that the ROD be amended to incorporate this waiver and that the ground water remedy be modified. EPA and IDNR are reviewing the report to determine if the conclusions are valid and that the recommendations will continue to protect human health and the environment. The site will be undergoing its next 5-year review in 2007.

**2007: Completion of EPA Five Year Review. Approval of Vapor Intrusion Investigation Work Plan and Annual Report.**

ATTACHMENT 2  
SITE PLAN



FI-6



**LEGEND**

- ◆ FI-10 EXISTING MONITORING WELL
- EX-1 EXTRACTION WELL WITH MANHOLE
- — — EXISTING FENCE



FI-1  
1 BLOCK TO  
THE SOUTH

◆ FI-11