

Unanswered Questions: What are Ameren and the ILEPA finding at the toxic 5th and Hill site?

5th and Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign

August 21, 2008

Presentation Outline

- Section 1: Brief Site History**
- Section 2: Toxic Chemicals**
- Section 3: Testing for Toxic Chemicals**
- Section 4: Other Signs of Contamination/Causes for Concern**
- Section 5: Misleading Information**
- Section 6: 5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign - What's next?**

5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign

Section 1: Brief Site History

Manufactured Gas Plant 1869-1950

- Owned by UC Railway Gas and Electric Company, Illinois Power and Light Corporation, and finally Ameren



Section 1: Site History cont'd.

Plant produced various manufactured gasses, including Coal gas and Carbureted Water gas, and later bought Natural Gas for distribution

One of the by-products of the gasification process is Coal Tar

- Based on the history of Former Manufactured Gas Plants it is reasonable to be concerned about whether coal tar was dumped in areas on the property or offsite in residential areas

Ameren sold property to American Legion in 1979

Ameren later bought back the property in 1991

Site History cont'd.

In October of 1997, Ameren conducted an Interim Site Remediation.

- Ameren claims to have removed 1,500 tons of Material from top level of soil
- Ameren left underground structures and piping and other source material in place

Testing for contaminants was done in the 1990s, and continued to 2007.

The results of this testing are contained in Ameren's "Comprehensive Site Investigation" report presented in three large binders.

This presentation focuses on those test results.

New testing has recently been conducted in 2008 as part of the site remediation process.

These test results are not yet available to the public.

Section 2: Toxic Chemicals

Ameren submitted a list of toxic chemicals related to the manufactured gas plant's operation.

These chemicals are listed in Ameren's Table ES-1

This list includes Volatile Organic Compounds, PaHs and Napthalene, as well as Heavy Metals

**TABLE ES-1
 MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT RELATED CONSTITUENTS OF CONCERN
 COMPREHENSIVE SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT
 CHAMPAIGN MGP SITE
 CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS
 AMERENIP**

<u>SOIL</u>	<u>GROUNDWATER</u>
Inorganics	
Cyanide	
Metals	
Chromium	
Lead	
Arsenic	
Volatile Aromatics	Volatile Aromatics
Benzene	Benzene
Ethylbenzene	Ethylbenzene
Toluene	Toluene
Total Xylenes	
Styrene	
Acetone	
Methylene Chloride	

Table ES-1 cont'd.

<u>SOIL</u>	<u>GROUNDWATER</u>
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
Acenaphthene	Acenaphthene
Acenaphthylene	Acenaphthylene
Benzo(a)anthracene	Benzo(a)anthracene
Benzo(a)pyrene	Benzo(a)pyrene
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	Benzo(b)fluoranthene
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	Chrysene
Chrysene	Fluoranthene
Dibenzo (a,h,)anthracene	Fluorene
Dibenzofuran	Indeno(1,2,3,cd)pyrene
Fluorene	Naphthalene
Indeno(1,2,3,cd)pyrene	Phenanthrene
Naphthalene	Pyrene
Phenanthrene	
2-methylnaphthalene	



What Does Toxic Mean?

A chemical is toxic if it is able to cause injury, serious debilitation or death. A synonym for toxic is poisonous.

According to the EPA, any chemical listed in the EPA's "Toxic Chemicals Subject to Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act of 1986" is toxic.

There are different levels of toxicity. The EPA defines degrees of toxicity the following ways:

- Acute toxicity produces harmful effects in an organism through a single or short-term exposure.
- Chronic toxicity is the ability of a substance or mixture of substances to cause harmful effects over an extended period, usually upon repeated or continuous exposure.
- Sub-chronic toxicity is the ability of a substance to cause effects for more than one year but less than the lifetime of the exposed organism.

Examples of Health Effects From Toxic Chemicals Found at 5th and Hill

These chemicals ARE toxic according to the EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Benzene

- Short-term exposure causes depression of the central nervous system (CNS), marked by drowsiness, dizziness, headache, nausea, loss of coordination, confusion and unconsciousness. Benzene exposure is most dangerous when it occurs over a long period of time or when the concentration of benzene to which a person is exposed is very high.
- It is conclusive that benzene causes a serious condition where the number of circulating red blood cells (erythrocytes), white blood cells (leukocytes) and clotting cells (thrombocytes) is reduced (pancytopenia). Benzene also damages the bone marrow, where new blood cells are produced, resulting in aplastic anemia, which can lead to leukemia.
- There are concerns that high exposures to benzene may be related to menstrual and reproductive problems in women.

Health Effects from Toxic Chemicals cont'd

Napthalene

- Exposure to large amounts of naphthalene may damage or destroy red blood cells. This could cause the body to have too few red blood cells until the body replaces the destroyed cells. This condition is called hemolytic anemia. Hemolytic anemia causes fatigue, lack of appetite, restlessness, and pale skin. Exposure to large amounts of naphthalene may also cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the urine, and a yellow color to the skin.
- Chronic inflammation of the lung, chronic nasal inflammation, hyperplasia of the respiratory epithelium in the nose, and metaplasia of the olfactory epithelium were reported in mice chronically exposed to naphthalene via inhalation.
- Exposure to vapors of naphthalene and coal tar can cause laryngeal carcinomas or neoplasms of the pylorus and cecum.
- Maternal toxicity (increased mortality and reduced weight gain) and fetotoxicity (reduced number of live pups per litter) were observed in mice exposed via gavage.
- An increased number of alveolar/bronchiolar adenomas and carcinomas were reported in female mice exposed by inhalation.

Health Effects from Toxic Chemicals cont'd

Ethylbenzene

- Exposure to high levels of ethylbenzene in air for short periods can cause eye and throat irritation. Exposure to higher levels can result in dizziness.
- Exposure to relatively low concentrations of ethylbenzene in air for several months to years causes kidney damage in animals.
- Results of animal studies in several species have shown changes to the liver and kidney from inhalation exposure to ethylbenzene including biochemical alterations, tissue changes, and increased organ weights.
- Animal studies have reported developmental effects, such as fetal resorptions, retardation of skeletal development, and an increased incidence of extra ribs in animals exposed to ethylbenzene via inhalation
- In a study by the NTP, exposure to ethylbenzene by inhalation resulted in a clearly increased incidence of kidney and testicular tumors in male rats, and a suggestive increase in kidney tumors in female rats, lung tumors in male mice, and liver tumors in female mice.

Section 3: Testing for Toxic Chemicals

- A. Types of tests
- B. Locating the toxic contamination
- C. What did they find?

A. Types of Tests

Type	What is it?
Underground Monitoring Well (UMW)	Used to monitor groundwater levels and contamination at various depths
Boreholes	Deep holes, drilled to monitor contamination in soil at various depths
Test pits	Long trenches at relatively shallow depths used for observational and sample testing
Surface Soil Sampling (CSS)	Soil sampling done exclusively at the surface to evaluate contamination
Piezometer	A device used to measure groundwater flow and direction.



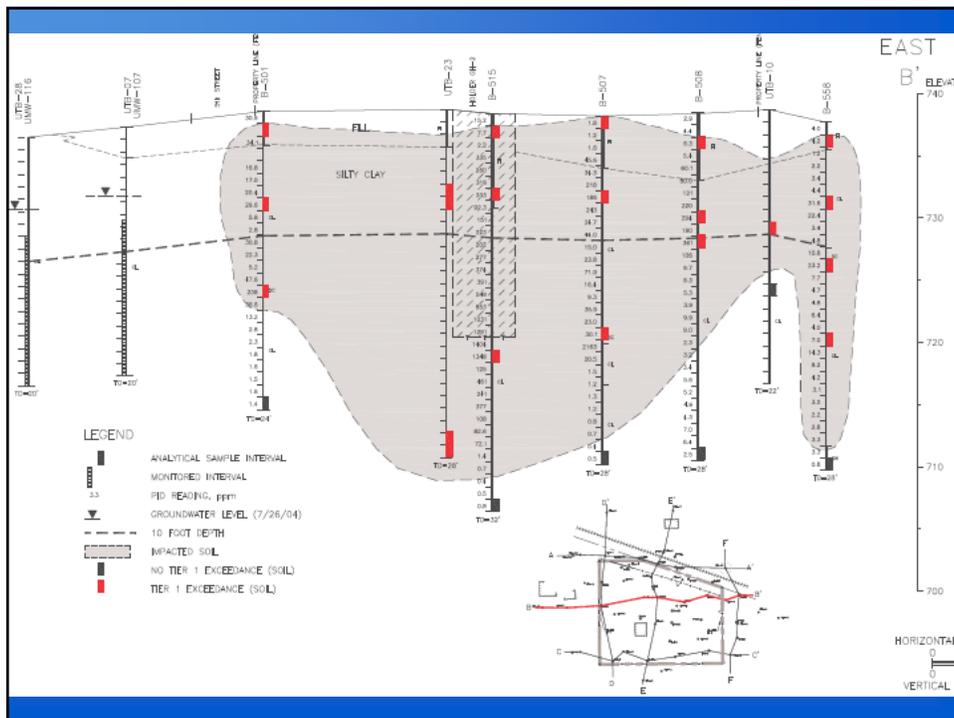
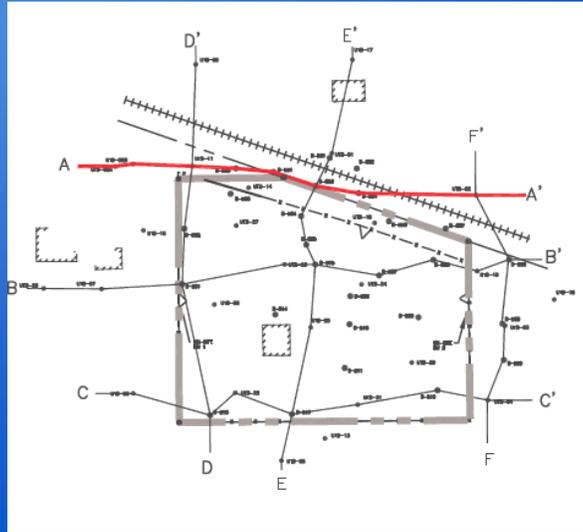


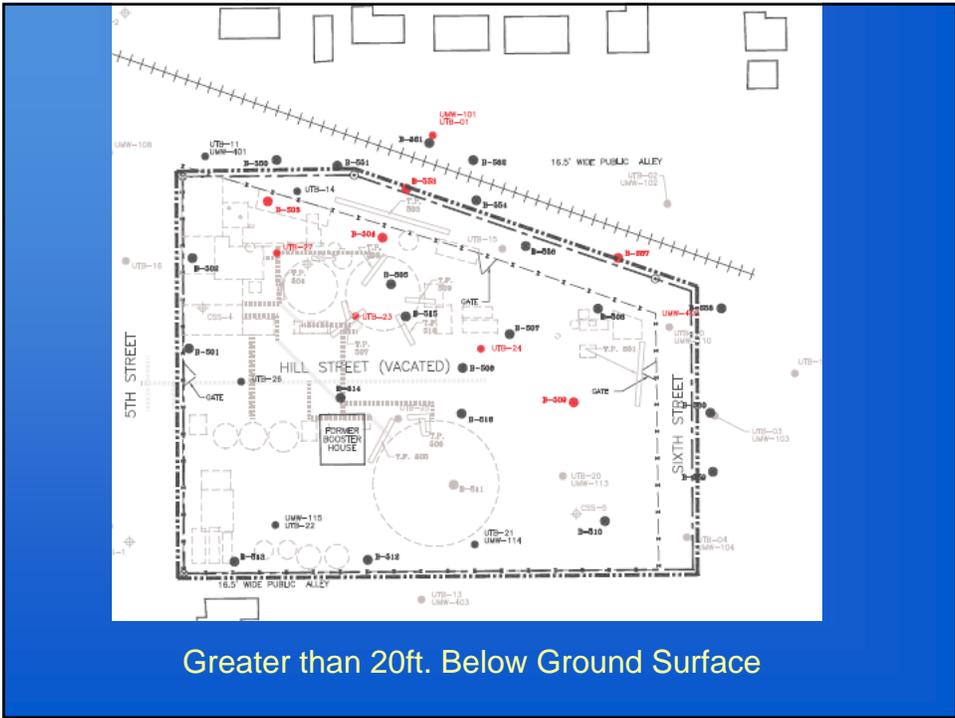
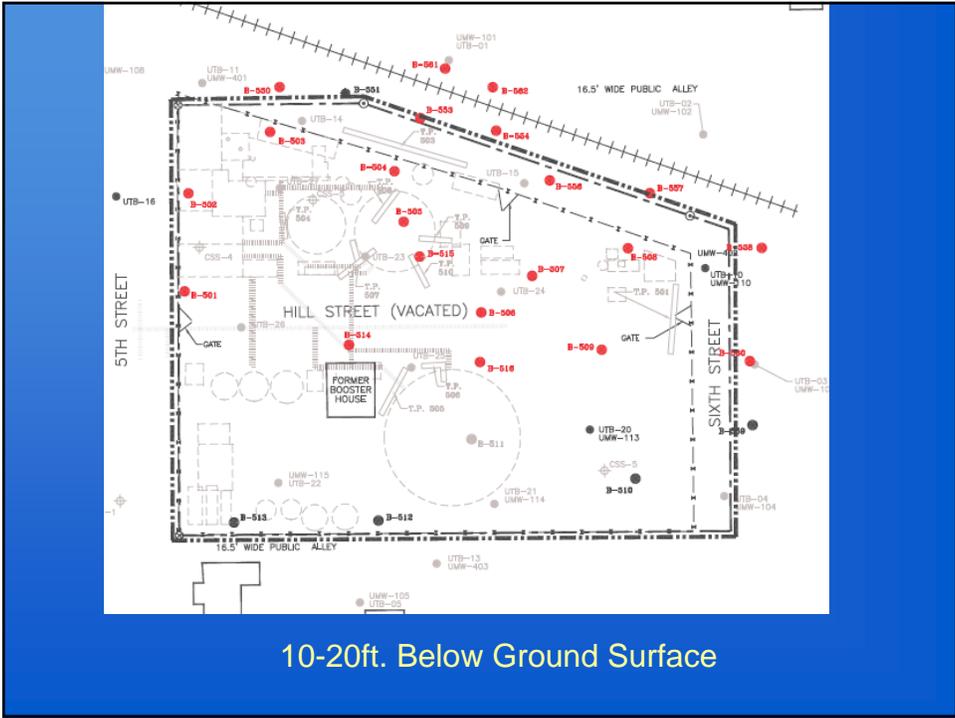
Testing Guidelines (TACO)

TACO: Tiered Approach to Corrective-Action Objectives

- Safety guidelines set by the ILEPA for toxic chemicals
- These guidelines determine whether remediation is required
- Each toxic contaminant has its own maximum concentration level that cannot be exceeded if the site is considered “safe.” If the maximum concentration level is exceeded, remediation is required.
- Site remediators (Ameren) cannot obtain a NFR (No Further Remediation) letter until every single toxic chemical is found to be below the ILEPA concentration levels.

B. Locating the Toxic Contamination





C. What did they find?

Now we know where the contamination is...

But what are they finding and how bad is it?

Please Note: Anything highlighted with color in the following slides exceeds safety guidelines, and is considered toxic.

BTEX and PaHs - greater than 10ft.

CONSTITUENT	UNITS/ DEPTH	B-501	B-501	B-502	B-502	B-503	B-503	B-504	B-504
		B-501-15 7/13/2004 14'-15'	B-501-24 7/13/2004 23'-24'	B-502-12 7/13/2004 11'-12'	B-502-24 7/21/2004 23'-24'	B-503-11 7/13/2004 10'-11'	B-503-19 7/13/2004 18'-19'	B-504-14 7/13/2004 13'-14'	B-504-21 7/14/2004 20'-21'
Benzene	(ug/kg)	16900	1.6	30300	423	223	3000	15100	33100
Ethylbenzene	(ug/kg)	2420	<0.7	25300	<19.2	372	<106	28500	1100
Toluene	(ug/kg)	6900	1.6	108000	<19.2	120	835	8240	8760
Xylene (total)	(ug/kg)	16900	2	226000	<19.2	458	<106	24000	3460
Acenaphthene	(ug/kg)	39000	<130	36000	<11	<42	5400	49000	22000
Acenaphthylene	(ug/kg)	58000	<140	50000	<11	<42	47000	20000	150000
Anthracene	(ug/kg)	130000	<120	64000	<11	<42	12000	34000	110000
Benzo(a)anthracene	(ug/kg)	67000	<100	54000	<11	<42	31000	17000	59000
Benzo(a)pyrene	(ug/kg)	68000	<95	48000	<11	<42	82000	16000	66000
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	(ug/kg)	72000	<99	56000	<11	<42	88000	12000	50000
Benzo(ghi)perylene	(ug/kg)	22000	<120	13000	<11	<42	23000	4900	15000
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	(ug/kg)	21000	<100	17000	<11	<42	25000	4000	16000
Chrysene	(ug/kg)	64000	<110	56000	<11	<42	34000	16000	62000
Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene	(ug/kg)	7300	<110	5900	<11	<42	5800	1400	4600
Fluoranthene	(ug/kg)	160000	<100	140000	<11	<42	37000	36000	120000
Fluorene	(ug/kg)	120000	<120	120000	<11	<42	13000	49000	120000
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	(ug/kg)	24000	<120	17000	<11	<42	21000	4700	15000
Naphthalene	(ug/kg)	920000	<150	680000	26	<42	7700	230000	330000
Phenanthrene	(ug/kg)	350000	<110	270000	<11	<42	18000	120000	320000
Pyrene	(ug/kg)	160000	<110	110000	<11	<42	60000	54000	190000

Notes:

ug/kg (1)	Micrograms per kilogram
----	Provisional remediation objective provided by IEPA
<12	No remediation objective has been established by the IEPA for this constituent for this exposure route
	Not detected at the level identified
	Analytical result exceeds one or more Tier 1 RO

BTEX and PaHs - 3 to 10ft.

Soil	UNITS/ DEPTH	B-501	B-502	B-503	B-504	B-505	B-506	B-507	B-508	B-509
		B-501-8 7/13/2004 7-8	B-502-7 7/13/2004 6-7	B-503-10 7/13/2004 9-10	B-504-7 7/13/2004 6-7	B-505-6 7/14/2004 5-6	B-506-7 7/22/2004 6-7	B-507-8 7/21/2004 7-8	B-508-9 7/19/2004 8-9	B-509-8 7/21/2004 7-8
CONSTITUENT										
Benzene (ug/kg)		153	10500	534	23800	14500	11200	3510	2050	4.8
Ethylbenzene (ug/kg)		41	5600	523	145000	79800	46200	22200	33100	3.8
Toluene (ug/kg)		<24.6	220	300	10000	3800	740	250	575	1.4
Xylene (total) (ug/kg)		41	11000	837	140000	69000	33700	16600	24300	12
Acenaphthene (ug/kg)		50	16000	1600	560000	540000	170000	53000	51000	9800
Acenaphthylene (ug/kg)		240	2700	320	71000	81000	12000	3600	5800	4700
Anthracene (ug/kg)		180	12000	1400	300000	280000	71000	24000	22000	7200
Benzo(a)anthracene (ug/kg)		180	8700	630	170000	140000	33000	9500	12000	9400
Benzo(a)pyrene (ug/kg)		270	4100	520	130000	140000	35000	12000	10000	8700
Benzo(b)fluoranthene (ug/kg)		250	18000	630	110000	130000	29000	7900	7900	8600
Benzo(ghi)perylene (ug/kg)		63	4000	110	<50000	31000	7200	2400	4500	2800
Benzo(k)fluoranthene (ug/kg)		97	5600	240	<43000	45000	7400	2300	3100	2500
Chrysene (ug/kg)		170	19000	650	150000	140000	33000	8800	11000	9000
Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene (ug/kg)		<30	1900	45	<44000	10000	2300	720	<3000	<620
Fluoranthene (ug/kg)		340	17000	1800	320000	290000	78000	26000	23000	18000
Fluorene (ug/kg)		330	20000	1200	410000	400000	90000	35000	30000	13000
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene (ug/kg)		64	4700	130	<47000	35000	6000	2300	3500	2400
Naphthalene (ug/kg)		<30	56000	16000	200000	230000	79000	17000	14000	<880
Phenanthrene (ug/kg)		38	50000	3500	110000	92000	25000	7700	6400	3700
Pyrene (ug/kg)		500	25000	1500	440000	400000	110000	37000	33000	25000

Notes: ug/kg Micrograms per kilogram
 (1) Provisional remediation objective provided by IEPA
 --- No remediation objective has been established by the IEPA for this constituent for this exposure route
 <12 Not detected at the level identified
 Analytical result exceeds one or more Tier 1 RO

BTEX and PaHs - 0 to 3 ft.

CONSTITUENT	UNITS	B-513	B-514	B-515	B-516	B-550	B-551	B-553	B-554
		B-513-2 7/12/2004 1'-2'	B-514-3 7/22/2004 2'-3'	B-515-2 7/16/2004 1'-2'	B-516-3 7/22/2004 2'-3'	B-550-3 7/20/2004 2'-3'	B-551-3 7/15/2004 2'-3'	B-553-3 7/14/2004 2'-3'	B-554-3 7/15/2004 2'-3'
Benzene (ug/kg)		7.6	32.8	4.3	5.1	5.8	972	195	180
Ethylbenzene (ug/kg)		<1.1	17.4	21.3	5.4	13.6	282	200	256
Toluene (ug/kg)		3.2	10.3	3	4.5	3.8	244	370	211
Xylene (total) (ug/kg)		1.8	25.4	26.4	6.5	25.9	276	466	624
Acenaphthene (ug/kg)		52	<1900	1100	<1800	<12000	3700	8500	<3000
Acenaphthylene (ug/kg)		100	2600	1900	40000	<13000	14000	26000	9200
Anthracene (ug/kg)		220	2400	1000	9700	<11000	20000	8400	<2800
Benzo(a)anthracene (ug/kg)		800	4800	2200	42000	<9400	52000	10000	<2400
Benzo(a)pyrene (ug/kg)		820	5900	4000	120000	<8800	68000	55000	8500
Benzo(b)fluoranthene (ug/kg)		1300	7800	4400	130000	<8800	83000	50000	8200
Benzo(ghi)perylene (ug/kg)		310	3800	1300	50000	<11000	28000	26000	8500
Benzo(k)fluoranthene (ug/kg)		490	2700	1300	38000	<9300	25000	12000	<2400
Chrysene (ug/kg)		930	4900	2800	62000	<9600	51000	18000	4300
Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene (ug/kg)		120	<1500	350	14000	<9500	9000	5000	<2500
Fluoranthene (ug/kg)		1700	6300	3300	27000	19000	93000	17000	4600
Fluorene (ug/kg)		51	1900	720	4000	12000	7100	7800	<2900
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene (ug/kg)		400	3400	1200	47000	<10000	33000	21000	4400
Naphthalene (ug/kg)		52	<2200	1800	10000	<14000	8400	2200	<3500
Phenanthrene (ug/kg)		840	6500	3300	8700	14000	47000	9400	3300
Pyrene (ug/kg)		1300	8500	5700	67000	21000	76000	27000	8500

Notes: ug/kg Micrograms per kilogram
 (1) Provisional remediation objective provided by IEPA
 --- No remediation objective has been established by the IEPA for this constituent for this exposure route
 <12 Not detected at the level identified
 Analytical result exceeds one or more Tier 1 RO.

Underground Monitoring Well - On-Site Ten Years of Testing

Monitoring Well	Sampling Date	Concentration ug/L					
		Benzene 5	Ethylbenzene 700	Toluene 1,000	Xylenes (Total) 10,000	Total BTEX	Naphthalene 140
UMW-114 Tier 1 Remedial Objective	02/03/97	1,430	1,330	47.3	J 622	3429	1,700
	05/08/97	1,410	1,170	27.4	586	3193	2,620
	08/05/97	1,220	1,240	33.0	573	3066	1,800
	11/04/97	1,400	1,310	52.6	627	3390	2,300
	02/03/98	1,220	1,100	117	645	3082	2,280
	02/03/98 d	1,200	1,060	118	618	2996	2,210
	05/05/98	1,170	1,280	107.0	759	3316	3,210/5,810**
	08/06/98	1,060	1,290	ND(50)	2,140	4490	4,000
	11/11/98	998	769	ND(100)	709	2476	3,050
	03/25/99	911	888	116.0	675	2590	4,190
	06/16/99	1,180	1,260	J 166.0	780	J 3386	2,180
	09/14/99	1,270	1,330	201.0	834	3635	3,350
	12/08/99	1,140	1,280	242.0	862	3524	3,170
	03/02/00	930	811	186.0	572	2499	3,400
	06/15/00	1,080	ND(50)	ND(50)	ND(50)	1080	5,740
	09/26/00	886	1,080	169.0	669	2804	3,750
	12/27/00	858	983	171.0	728	2740	2,800
	03/08/01	841	1,220	212.0	766	3039	2,370
	06/25/01	974	1,180	119.0	666	2939	2,410
	09/06/01	764	818	98.0	J 526	2206	765
	12/06/01	910	1,190	196.0	733	3029	3,200
	03/06/02	810	1,160	197.0	849	3016	2,270
	06/04/02	804	1,250	215.0	844	3113	4,400
	09/04/02	557	843	110.0	522	2032	3,960
	12/05/02	832	1,220	190.0	J 526	2768	3,250
	03/12/03	703	1,160	150.0	J 727	2740	2,860
	06/12/03	826	1,160	173	772	2931	3540
	06/12/03 d	786	1080	160	728	2754	3.54
	03/02/04	754	1040	<250	481	2275	4480
	05/25/04	760	1230	153	861	2851	3660

Underground Monitoring Well - Offsite 10 Years of Testing

Monitoring Well	Sampling Date	Concentration ug/L						
		Benzene 5	Ethylbenzene 700	Toluene 1,000	Xylenes (Total) 10,000	Total BTEX	Naphthalene 140	
UMW-107 Tier 1 Remedial Objective	02/04/97	2,820	79.5	J ND(125)	114	J 3014	75.3	
	02/04/97 d	3,060	84.8	J ND(125)	120	J 3265	82.1	
	05/07/97	2,050	67.3	14.2	114	2246	90.6	
	08/05/97	2,460	79.9	15.4	111	J 2666	92.0	
	11/04/97	3,430	131	22.7	J 193	3777	130	
	02/02/98	2,910	106	19.6	160	3196	75.5	
	05/04/98	2,130	72.8	ND(50)	164	2367	85	
	05/04/98 d	1,870	61.6	ND(50)	139	2071	78	
	08/06/98	2,260	60.7	ND(50)	120	2441	ND(5)	
	11/10/98	4,110	146	ND(50)	220	4476	239	
	03/25/99	2,320	66.2	ND(50)	134	2520	ND(250)	
	06/16/99	1,220	ND(100)	ND(100)	144	1364	30	
	09/14/99	1,480	47	ND(20)	77.2	1604	265	
	12/08/99	3,160	136	ND(50)	209	3505	164	
	03/02/00	1,810	80.8	ND(20)	87.1	1979	152	
	06/15/00	652	115	15.4	178	960	212	
	09/26/00	4,840	236	ND(125)	370	5446	702	
	12/27/00	2,040	89.5	11.5	166	2307	207	
	12/27/00 d	2,100	87.4	11.9	169	2368	198	
	03/08/01	329	ND(125)	ND(125)	68	397	38.1	
	06/25/01	1,170	58.9	7.6	134	1371	70.4	
	09/06/01	3,440	127	ND(125)	173	3740	172	
	12/06/01	2,110	70	J ND(125)	120	J 2300	167	
	bailer peristaltic	12/06/01 d	1,630	103	11.1	190	1934	154
		03/06/02	800	52.9	5.4	119	977	35.2
		06/04/02	754	110	5.8	183	954	86.8

Heavy Metals

Tier 1 Remediation Objectives							
CONSTITUENT	UNITS/DEPTH	B-501	B-502	B-503	B-504	B-505	B-506
		B-501-2	B-502-3	B-503-3	B-504-3	B-505-3	B-506-3
		7/13/2004 1'-2'	7/13/2004 2'-3'	7/13/2004 2'-3'	7/13/2004 2'-3'	7/14/2004 2'-3'	7/22/2004 2'-3'
Arsenic	(mg/kg)	9.28	58.5	8.31	15.4	4.5	14.7
Barium	(mg/kg)	143	58.3	99.6	152	27.1	113
Cadmium	(mg/kg)	0.28	0.5	0.3	1.68	0.58	0.14
Chromium	(mg/kg)	19.6	8.81	18.1	13.6	12.6	15.7
COD	(mg/kg)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Copper	(mg/kg)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cyanide	(mg/kg)	1.38	1.02	11.7	55.5	25.2	2.31
Iron	(mg/kg)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lead	(mg/kg)	58	21.7	202	221	552	177
Manganese	(mg/kg)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mercury	(mg/kg)	0.215	0.037	0.167	0.338	0.061	0.695
Nickel	(mg/kg)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Selenium	(mg/kg)	<4.00	<3.85	<4.00	<3.92	<4.00	<3.85
Silver	(mg/kg)	<1.00	<0.96	<1.00	<0.98	<1.00	<0.96
Zinc	(mg/kg)	---	---	---	---	---	---

Notes:
 mg/kg Milligrams per kilogram
 -1 Provisional remediation objective provided by IEPA
 ---- No remediation objective has been established by the IEPA for this constituent for this exposure route
 <12 Not detected at the level identified
 * Based on an average pH of 7.50 for the site
 Analytical result exceeds one or more Tier 1 RO

Section 4: Other Signs of Contamination/Causes for Concern

- A. City's neighborhood infrastructure
- B. Historical research
- C. Evidence of possible contamination outside of testing boundary

A. City's Neighborhood Infrastructure

Sewage

- Many reports of raw sewage backing up into homes and yards of 5th and Hill residents.
- Residents often pay hundreds of dollars out of pocket to have sewage system rooted out every year.



City's Neighborhood Infrastructure cont'd.

Water

- Many residents report that their water smells, is discolored or tastes funny.
- Many residents pay to buy bottled water for home use because they feel it is not safe to drink their tap water.



A. City's Neighborhood Infrastructure cont'd.

Drainage

- Flooding occurs in numerous areas in the 5th and Hill neighborhood, causing basements to flood with potentially contaminated groundwater.



Flooding can spread groundwater contamination.



Storm sewer systems (which, according to city staff, have not been updated since World War II) drain contaminated water into the Boneyard Creek west of the neighborhood



City's Neighborhood Infrastructure cont'd.

Wells

- When neighborhood water was converted from public wells to in-ground piping, a lot of the old wells were left abandoned and uncapped.





B. Historical Research

Historical newspaper research shows:

- The plant has been charged with being a public nuisance on many different occasions.
- Some residents of the 5th and Hill neighborhood were not pleased with the plant's presence.
- University of Illinois prospered as a result of the plant.

Prof. Parr's groundbreaking coal process was conducted at and with the help of our manufactured gas plant.

SAY GAS HOUSE SHOULD BE MOVED

The gas house should be moved outside the city limits. This is the burden of numerous complaints that have been received by the Champaign city commissioners from numerous residents of the northeast part of Champaign, where, of late, the place of manufacture of gas for the Twin Cities has become a nuisance on account of the artillery-like blasts that shake the ground for blocks around at all hours of the day and night.

Since the installation of new resorts for the manufacture of water gas, crude oil being used in the big furnaces, residents of all parts of the Twin Cities, at intervals, have made inquiry concerning what seemed to be an artillery engagement. The portion of the community from which the inquiries came depended upon the direction of the wind, with relation to the gas factory. However, those residing within a few blocks of the place, get the soothing influence of the nocturnal detonations without the assistance of the night wind.

April 28, 1920

October 4, 1922

Special Procedure Necessary To Haul Company In Court

A corporation cannot be arrested, the sheriff for service. It requires a representative of the defendant corporation to appear before the court to plead within ten days after date of service.

and for some time after the last grand jury had indicted the Urbana & Champaign Railway, & Electric company for creating a public nuisance and polluting a stream, there was a question as to whether one could be indicted legally. Legal solons delved long dusty books while the midnight oil simmered before finding authority for the indictment. With that O. K., the problem of procedure had to be solved, for, as stated before, a corporation is immune from arrest. Finally a section was discovered in which it is explained that, in case of indictment of any corporation, a summons, signed by the judge, must be issued in place of a bench warrant or capias, and placed in the hands of

the sheriff for service. It requires a representative of the defendant corporation to appear before the court to plead within ten days after date of service.

So, thus fortified with legal knowledge, Deputy Sheriff Guy Fox went over to Champaign yesterday and served such a summons on F. W. Bedard, superintendent of the Urbana & Champaign Railway, & Electric company. It is charged that an agent of the company turned creosote from the Boneyard branch one night last summer, killing all animal life in Salt Fork creek, to which the is tributary, for a distance of 20 miles and "gassing" the eastern part of Champaign and the whole of Urbana.

December 24, 1922

UTILITIES COMPANY MUST STAND TRIAL

Indictment Charging Gas, Electric Concern with Causing Public Nuisance Stands

Judge F. H. Boggs yesterday ruled that the Urbana-Champaign Railway, Gas and Electric company must stand trial on one of the indictments arising out of the break in a tar line at the Champaign gas plant which allowed several thousand gallons of tar to flow into the Boneyard, killing fish and polluting the stream as far as the Salt Fork. He quashed another indictment, however.

The indictment which stands is the one charging the company with causing a public nuisance. That which was

Possible Contamination Outside of Testing Boundary

The City's outdated infrastructure in the neighborhood may contribute to the spread of toxic contamination through groundwater.

- Residents report gas or chemical smells when their basements flood.
- There are many areas where plants/grass have stopped growing.

Research shows that it was common practice for Manufactured Gas Plants to dump their waste on properties close to the gas plants.

- Organizers have found evidence of possible contamination on residential and other properties that are well outside of Ameren's testing boundaries.

Possible Contamination Outside of Testing Boundary



Section 5: Misleading Information from Authorities

What do we know?

- Toxic chemicals found at the site and in the neighborhood are known to damage human health.
- Toxic chemicals are testing positive in concentrations well above EPA standards for “safe” exposure.
- Testing consistently shows presence of toxic chemicals in shallow soil, which increases risk of exposure.
- The outer boundaries of the spread of contamination have not yet been mapped out or identified, so we don't know how far the toxic contamination has spread.
- There is reasonable concern that these chemicals have spread throughout the neighborhood through groundwater, and that residents and former residents have been and are being exposed on an ongoing basis to toxic chemicals.

And yet...

Reasonable concerns about the health and safety of residents and former residents are dismissed and downplayed by IL EPA, Ameren, and the City of Champaign.

IL EPA, Ameren, and the City of Champaign say there is “NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT.”

This CANNOT be an accurate assessment of the toxic contamination.

Section 5: Misleading Information from Authorities – Cont'd.

About the Report by City's Consultant - Dr. Schneider

Dr. Nicholas Schneider, of Rapps Engineering, prepared a report for the City of Champaign - "Evaluation of activities related to the investigation of a former manufactured gas plant, Fifth and Hill Streets, Champaign, Illinois"

General purpose of Dr. Schneider's work:

"...to review and evaluate all documentation provided by AmerenIP, including a Report of Investigation (2007) and Proposed Work Plan (2008), as well as information obtained by the City regarding the Site as a result of citizen interactions."

Tests conducted by Dr. Schneider to evaluate residents' threat of exposure to toxic chemicals:

- Conducted tests at various random points around Ameren's property
- His findings differ from Ameren's (his show very little contamination)
- He never reported on Ameren's findings

Dr. Schneider's report and presentation to the community on June 5, 2008:

- Never once mention the information we have shared with you in this presentation;
- Downplayed concerns about exposure to certain toxins because "these compounds are used everyday by numerous residents as fuel for automobiles, lawn mowers, cleaning compounds, etc. and the actual source of these constituents of concern are numerous."
- Concluded, after supposedly reviewing the very documents we have reviewed here, that "there does not appear to be any immediate threat to human health or environment in the neighborhood of Fifth and Hill Streets, Champaign, Illinois"
- Ridiculed residents for claiming to have uncapped wells on their properties.
- Chastised residents for having yard signs.

Section 5: Misleading Information from Authorities – Cont'd.

The 8 common ways that officials try to minimize or mislead:

1. Avoid using the word “toxic.” Instead, use terms like “chemicals of concern” or “undesirable chemicals,” to not talk about the fact that these are poisonous, harmful chemicals.
2. Saying that toxic chemicals are “ubiquitous in an urban environment.” They imply that these chemicals are all over the place and come from other sources, and therefore we can't assume these come from the Former Manufactured Gas Plant.
3. Dismiss concerns about exposure to toxic chemicals by saying that these chemicals are present in everyday products and there is everyday exposure. They make inappropriate comparisons to Vaseline, gasoline, and carbon produced from BBQ'ing.
4. Avoid any discussion of possible health effects, including long-term health consequences. Avoid discussion of long-term and chronic exposure. Stubbornly focus on “immediate threat.”

Section 5: Misleading Information from Authorities – Cont'd.

The 8 common ways that officials try to minimize or mislead:

5. Say that toxic contamination is “deep underground” and “you're not going down there” (Dr. Schneider), therefore you cannot be exposed to the toxic chemicals. Also imply or say outright that because toxic contamination is deep underground, it will not spread.
6. Willfully withhold information and data, or only share the least damaging (for the company) information. Pretend to share with the community (providing binders without summarizing the information or breaking it down so people can understand).
7. Use “parts per billion (ppb)” to make risk of toxic exposure seem trivial and infinitely small. The drug Viagra has the desired effect at around 3 parts per billion, for example.
8. Allow “experts” to inappropriately make conclusions that are outside of their area of expertise. For example, a geologist making conclusions about human health (what would a toxicologist say?).

Section 6: 5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign - What's Next?

Continue outreach to residents and former residents, and community at-large;

Continue research;

Demand appropriate action from USEPA, ILEPA and Ameren to:

- Get warning signs on property, and in neighborhood;
- Do testing to find outer boundaries of contamination;
- Present real information to the community, in ways that people can understand (stop hiding information);

Demand that USEPA, ILEPA, the City of Champaign, and Ameren work directly with residents and the community on all aspects of the site remediation process.