



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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**Resolution 5-2002 In Support of the Coal Tar Advisory Committee**

WHEREAS, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) operated near the corner of West Court and North Plain Streets in the City of Ithaca between 1853 and 1927, and

WHEREAS, when the plant closed, by-products of the industrial process were left in the ground on the plant site and in a duct or ducts running under West Court Street, and

WHEREAS, those by-products are known to have leaked on the plant block and into surrounding residential blocks, and

WHEREAS, the site has been listed since 1988 on the New York State Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Registry and categorized as a Class Two site posing a “significant threat to the public health or environment – action required,” and

WHEREAS, New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) is the responsible party for the cleanup of the site and surrounding contamination, and

WHEREAS, the work of NYSEG is being overseen by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State and Tompkins County Departments of Health (DOH), and

WHEREAS, limited investigations of soil and groundwater conditions have been completed on the plant site and in the surrounding neighborhood to date, and

WHEREAS, the EMC is concerned for the health and safety of community residents as well as that of the children who attend the community’s schools (Beverly J. Martin Elementary and Immaculate Conception), who participate in the programs of the Greater Ithaca Activities Center, and who study at the Ithaca Ballet Academy,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council urges a full and complete investigation and cleanup of the former Court Street Manufactured Gas Plant and all related contamination throughout the community.

Unanimously approved by those members present on December 18, 2002