

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5

Community Involvement Plan

Peoples Gas Plant Sites

(Near Ashland Avenue and Halsted Street in Chicago)

*Cook County, Illinois*

April 2008



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## Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prepared this community involvement plan for the five Peoples Gas cleanup sites near Ashland Avenue and Halsted Street primarily in the Bridgeport neighborhood on the south side of Chicago in Cook County, Illinois. This plan provides background information on the sites, describes activities EPA will perform to keep the public and local officials informed about progress at the sites, and encourages community involvement during cleanup of the sites.

This CIP also discusses the concerns of nearby residents and local officials regarding the sites and ways for EPA to address them. The information in this plan is based primarily on discussions with residents and local officials that occurred October 9-11, 2007.

## Site Background

EPA has entered into an agreement with Peoples Gas Company to oversee the company's investigation of 11 former Manufactured Gas Plant sites in Chicago. Peoples Gas will investigate the extent and nature of contamination on each of the sites, and then evaluate potential cleanup options. This process is expected to continue through 2009. In consultation with Illinois EPA, the City of Chicago and area residents, EPA will make the final cleanup determinations.

All of the properties covered by the agreement are relatively close to the Chicago River, which was a transportation route when the MGPs operated. These facilities produced gas from coal from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries. After World War II, coal gas was phased out and replaced with natural gas for cooking and heating. Waste from these operations often included tar, oil, cinders and coke (coal residue). The material also usually contains a group of compounds commonly found in motor oils (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons), volatile organic compounds (contaminants that evaporate into the air easily) and heavy metals such as arsenic and lead.

Of the 11 sites being investigated, this CIP focuses on the five south side sites. See the site location map on Page 3.

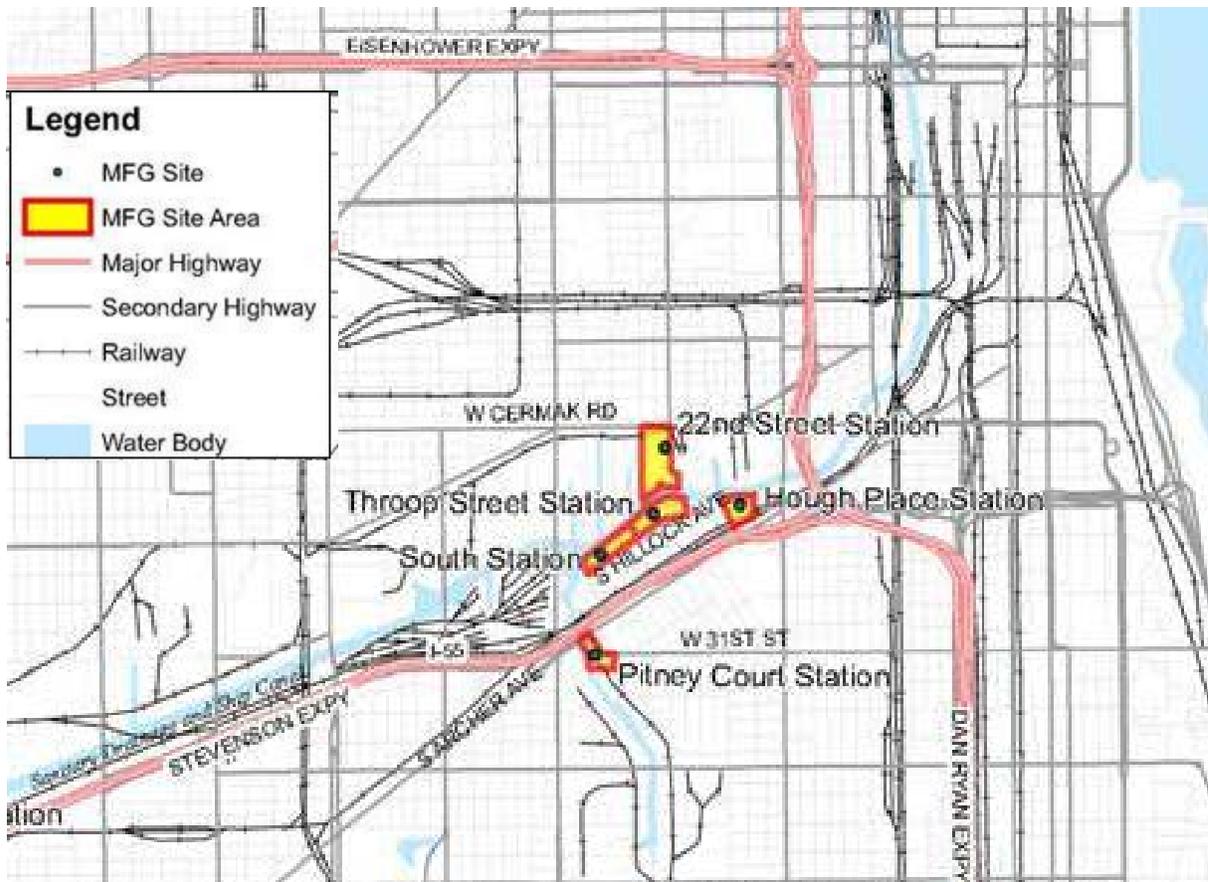
## Site Description

### Location and Site Features

Four of the five sites near Ashland Avenue and Halsted Street are on the south side of the Chicago River, in the Bridgeport neighborhood. The sites in Bridgeport include:

- Hough Place Station, 2500 S. Corbett St.
- Pitney Court Station, 3052 Pitney Court
- South Station and Throop Street Station, between South Throop Street and South Lock Street

The 22nd Street Station located at 2200 S. Racine Ave., is on the north side of the river in a predominantly industrial area.



Some excavation of contaminated soil is already underway at portions of three of the sites under Illinois EPA’s voluntary cleanup program: 22nd Street, Hough Place and Pitney Court. This cleanup will continue under EPA and Illinois EPA oversight while the investigative work proceeds.

## History and Cleanup Progress

### 22nd Street Station

The 22nd Street Station is located at 2200 South Racine Avenue in Chicago. The 7.2-acre site is bounded to the west by commercial property, to the north by Cermak Road followed by mixed residential and commercial properties, to the east by an electrical substation owned by Commonwealth Edison, and to the south by the South Branch of the Chicago River.

Peoples Gas no longer owns the site. It is comprised of four parcels currently owned and/or operated by Commonwealth Edison, Throop Realty LLC, Throop Towers LLC and Midwest Generation.

Peoples Gas initially developed the property in 1862 to produce coal gas. In 1934, the site was modified to produce carbureted water gas and oil gas. Some of the facilities were retired in 1938, and in 1944, two production sets were modified to produce reformed natural gas. In 1958, operations ceased, and in 1959 Peoples Gas sold the last portion of the site to Commonwealth Edison, which leased portions of the site since 1931. The plant was dismantled by 1960.

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In 1988, Illinois EPA conducted a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act preliminary assessment of the site, which recommended further investigation. Between 2000 and 2002, site investigations were performed on behalf of Peoples Gas, and a remedial objectives report developed for the site during this period recommended removing affected material from several onsite locations.

In 2000, sediment samples were collected from a location in the South Branch of the Chicago River about 2,000 feet downstream of the site as part of an EPA sediment contamination study. These samples contained high levels of PAHs, PCBs, oil, grease and metals with the concentrations of these substances generally increasing with depth.

In 2001, various VOCs, semivolatile organic compounds, metals and cyanide were detected in ground-water samples collected at the site. Shallow ground water under the property flows to the southwest, toward the former Throop's Canal and the South Branch of the Chicago River.

Surface soil at the site is fill material composed primarily of gravel and sand with smaller amounts of silt, clay, brick, cinders, glass and wood. Coal tar, free product, staining and odors were observed at various locations during site investigations, and sheens were observed in borings installed in the fill in the former Throop's Canal. Metals (including arsenic, chromium, lead, silver, and selenium), BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylene and xylenes), and several PAHs were detected at concentrations exceeding the Illinois Tier 1 screening levels in soil samples collected at the site.

In April 2006, cleanup activities began on a portion of the site. Affected material in the east gas holder was excavated and removed to a depth of approximately 20 feet. Affected material in portions of the former Throop's Canal was excavated and removed to a depth of approximately 30 feet. Site cleanup by excavation and offsite disposal of affected materials is continuing.

### **Hough Place Station Site**

The Hough Place Station is located at 2500 S. Corbett St. in Chicago. The 4.5-acre site is bounded on the north by the South Branch of the Chicago River, on the south by railroad property, and on the east by a paper storage and distribution facility. The site, which is owned by Crowley's Yacht Yard, and the adjacent property to the west are vacant but were occupied by a sailboat storage, sales, and repair facility (Crowley's Yacht Yard).

The Equitable Gas Light and Fuel Company built the station around 1885. From about 1892 until the early 1920s, the facility produced "Pintsch gas," a relatively high quality gas produced by an oil gas process, for the Pintsch Compressing Company.

After passage of the Gas Consolidation Act, Peoples Gas acquired the facility in 1897. In 1934, the station was dismantled, and all aboveground gas plant structures were removed. Portions of the property subsequently were leased to other companies, which used the property for storing building materials and making asphalt, concrete or other paving materials through at least 1950. In 1953, Chicago Title and Trust Company, as trustee, took title to the property. For some time between 1953 and 1978, the J.M. Corbett Company operated an asphalt mixing plant on the property. In 1978, the property was sold to Crowley's Yacht Yard.

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Water level data suggest shallow ground water under the property flows toward the former slips to the east and west, with a northern component toward the South Branch of the Chicago River. In 2000, BTEX, PAHs, metals and cyanide were detected in ground-water samples collected at the site.

Fill material consisting of silty clay mixed with sand and gravel, cinders, slag, brick fragments and other debris is under the property. A site investigation performed in 2000 included completing test pits and soil borings and installing shallow monitoring wells. Staining and odors have been observed in test pits and soil borings at various locations across the site below the water level. Black, plastic asphalt tar was observed at 2 feet deep in a test pit located in the northwest corner of the site, and there were several areas where tar was present below the water table. BTEX, PAHs, metals and cyanide also were detected in several surface and subsurface soil samples at the site.

In September and October 2006, a geotechnical investigation was conducted to design excavations necessary to clean up the site. Soil borings advanced beyond the eastern site boundary (in the location of the former Hough Slip) indicated tar was present below the water level in the filled-in slip. Site cleanup is underway; this effort involves digging up affected material to 24 feet deep and disposing of the contaminated material offsite.

In November 2006, a limited investigation of the river area adjacent to the site was conducted for Peoples Gas. Several borings were advanced into river sediment. Sheens, odor, tar globules, tar-coated or stained material and traces of tar were observed in some of the borings.

### **Pitney Court Station Site**

The Pitney Court Station is located at 3052 Pitney Court, at the intersection of Archer Avenue and Pitney Court in Chicago. The 4.8-acre site is bounded to the northwest by Archer Avenue, to the northeast by Pitney Court and 31st Street, to the east by Benson Street, to the south by Chicago Plating, Inc. (a chrome plating facility), and to the west by the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River. Peoples Gas owns the site, which is vacant and will be developed for residential use. The land use in the surrounding area is mixed residential, industrial, and commercial.

The site formerly was used as a manufactured gas production and storage facility. In 1897, Universal Gas Company began gas manufacturing operations at the site. Peoples Gas leased the facility from Universal Gas in 1907 and purchased Universal Gas Company in 1914. Peoples Gas sold the property in 1952 and re-purchased it in July 2005. Between 1952 and 2005, the property had a number of owners and was used for a variety of purposes.

Based on water level measurements, ground water under the property flows westerly toward the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River. An interlocking sheet pile wall is located along the western side of the site, adjacent to the South Fork. VOCs, SVOCs (including PAHs), metals and cyanide have been detected in ground-water samples collected during investigations conducted at various times from 1995 through 2002.

During site investigations, visible evidence of impacts including coal tar, sheen and/or staining was observed below the ground-water level in several soil borings and test pits. Metals (arsenic and lead), benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and several PAHs were detected

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at concentrations exceeding Illinois Tier 1 screening levels in soil samples collected at the site.

Since 1990, several investigations have reported subsurface impacts, including coal tar, staining, sheens and odor, at various locations across the site, in some cases below ground-water levels. An investigation performed in 1990 noted stained soil in conjunction with underground storage tank removal activities, and an investigation performed in 1995 concluded that the site was affected by past operations based on detections of benzene and PAHs in soil and ground water. In 1998, surface soil staining and sheen on ponded surface water were noted, and in 2000, tar was observed up to 20 feet below water levels in the ground and the adjacent river. Additional site investigations conducted for Peoples Gas from 2002 through 2006 also found tar at varying depths.

In 2004, sediment samples were collected near the site in the South Fork for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District. These samples contained PAHs, other SVOCs, VOCs, PCBs, oil, grease and metals. An oily sheen also was observed in sediment at two locations near the site. The USACE findings are consistent with results obtained in earlier studies conducted by Illinois EPA in 1994, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District in 1995, and EPA in 2000.

Site cleanup activities began in 2005 and generally involve excavation and offsite disposal of MGP-affected materials. To date, affected materials, including tar-saturated material, have been encountered and removed at levels above and below the water table from the center of the property and along the South Fork, directly behind the sheet pile river wall.

### **South Station Site**

The South Station is located near the intersection of Eleanor and Loomis streets in Chicago. Peoples Gas owns half of the 8.3-acre site (two parcels comprising 4 acres), and the City of Chicago owns the other half (two parcels comprising 4.3 acres). The site is bounded to the northwest by the South Branch of the Chicago River, to the southeast by Eleanor Street, and to the northeast by Loomis Street.

Peoples Gas owns Parcels A and B, which are occupied by a storage warehouse constructed in the early 1970s. Parcels C and D, owned by the City of Chicago, are vacant but will be developed into a city park. Land use near the site is predominantly industrial and residential, with some residences located across Eleanor Street.

In 1874, Peoples Gas built the plant and storage facility. The site was used for gas manufacturing operations from 1874 to 1941, when plant operations shifted to using natural gas. Over the years, the plant produced gas by various manufacturing processes: coal gas (1874-1890), carbureted water gas (1890-1934) and oil gas (1934-1941). From 1941 to 1961, the plant was used as a reformed natural gas facility. In 1961, plant operations ceased, and the structures were dismantled during the mid to late 1960s. Later, a portion of the site was used as a wood pallet manufacturing facility.

Shallow ground water underlying the property flows northwest, toward the South Branch of the Chicago River. Ground-water samples collected in 1998 and 1999 contained cyanide, metals, VOCs (including trichloroethylene, benzene and naphthalene) and SVOCs (including PAHs). Most of these chemicals also were detected in ground-water samples collected in 2004 after much of the recent cleanup activities were completed.

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Surface soil at the site consists of silts and clays, which are underlain by glacial drift deposits extending to the bedrock layer. Free product, coal tar, sheens, strong odors and staining have been observed in soil borings at depths greater than 20 feet below the surface. In soil samples taken in 1999, metals, cyanide, PAHs and other SVOCs, and VOCs were detected. Chemicals found at concentrations exceeding the Illinois Tier 1 screening levels include benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, styrene, toluene, TCE, xylenes, and chromium. Because soil was not excavated beneath most of the building footprint and in other areas of the site, soil with notable coal tar impacts remain in place.

The property is adjacent to the South Branch of the Chicago River. In 2000, sediment samples were collected from a location in the South Branch adjacent to the site as part of an EPA sediment contamination study. These samples contained high levels of PAHs, PCBs, oil, grease and metals; the concentrations of these substances generally increased with depth.

From 1999 through 2004, site conditions were investigated for Peoples Gas, and cleanup actions were performed from 2001 through 2006. Cleanup activities involved removing contents from underground tanks, demolishing and removing buried structures, excavating soil to a maximum depth of 30 feet on land, and dredging affected sediment from the river. Dredging was necessary to address tar-impacted sediment located near a tar seep and a monitoring well that contained free product. A post-cleanup investigation of sediment in the river adjacent to the site found evidence of residual tar impacts..

#### **Throop Street Station Site**

The Throop Street Station is located at the intersection of South Throop Street, South Eleanor Street, and West 25th Street in Chicago. The 15.5-acre site is bounded to the north by the South Branch of the Chicago River, to the south by South Eleanor Street and West 25th Street, to the west by Loomis Street, and to the east by Commonwealth Edison. The western portion of the site was part of the South Station but is included here because of common ownership and use. Land use near the site is predominantly industrial and residential. Brandenburg Industrial Service Company owns the site, which is used as a storage yard for equipment and debris.

In 1892, Consumers Gas Company constructed the site as a gas holder facility, and Peoples Gas acquired the site in 1897. The site operated as a manufactured gas storage and distribution facility. In 1944, a mixing plant was constructed to mix manufactured and natural gas onsite. The station was closed in 1972 and sold to Brandenburg in 1981. All above ground structures associated with the gas holder facility were demolished.

Two soil borings were installed in the southwest corner of the site on behalf of Peoples Gas. Black, stained soil exhibiting strong odors was observed beneath the water table, and a sheen was observed on the water surface. Ground water generally flows north toward the South Branch of the Chicago River. Site-specific ground-water quality data are not available, but contaminants likely to be present in ground water at the site include BTEX, PAHs, metals and cyanide.

In March 2001 and June 2002, limited site investigation activities were conducted in the southwest corner of the site. No subsurface investigation activities have been conducted at the remainder of the site. In the southwest corner of the site, blue-green soil, strong odors

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and elevated organic vapor readings in soil were present. The investigation also revealed black staining, odors, elevated organic vapor readings and petroleum sheen on the groundwater surface. Analytical results for soil samples collected in the southwest corner of the site indicated the presence of elevated concentrations of PAHs. No other soil sampling is known to have been conducted at the site, and no additional information regarding site-specific soil characteristics is known. Other contaminants likely to be present in site soil include BTEX, PAHs, metals and cyanide.

The site is adjacent to the South Branch of the Chicago River. In 2000, sediment samples were collected from a location in the South Branch approximately 750 feet downstream of the site as part of an EPA sediment contamination study. In 2006, the conditions in sediment adjacent to the property were investigated on behalf of Peoples Gas. Tar-like impacts were observed in several sediment borings.

## Community Background

The South Side is a major section of the city of Chicago, located in Cook County, Illinois. The South Side has had a distinct identity that is often associated with racial diversity. The boundaries of the region vary by source, but generally the area encompasses 60 percent of the city's land area with a higher ratio of single-family homes and large sections zoned for industry. Considerable heterogeneity in race, income and other demographic measures can be found there.

Chicago is the county seat of Cook County. The government of the City of Chicago is divided into executive and legislative branches. The mayor of Chicago is the chief executive, elected by general election for a term of four years. The city council is the legislative branch and is made up of 50 aldermen, one elected from each ward in the city. The council enacts local ordinances and approves the city budget. Government priorities and activities are established in a budget ordinance usually adopted each November. The council takes official action through the passage of ordinances and resolutions.

Bridgeport (the location of four of the five sites covered by this CIP) is in Chicago's 11th Ward, and the 22nd Street Station site is in the 25th Ward. Bridgeport extends from the Stevenson Expressway north to Pershing Road on the south, and from the Conrail tracks on the east to Bubbly Creek (a small fork of the Chicago River) on the west. In the 1830s and early 1840s, its original settlers were Irish canalers. These squatters built their shanties on federal land --the canal banks --near the source of fresh water. Bridgeport was a city suburb until 1863. The community got its name from the fact that there was a low bridge near the South Fork in the 1840s, and heavily loaded canal boats had to unload items from the decks and carry them around it.

Bridgeport, approximately 2 square miles in area on the near southwest side of Chicago, was the lifelong home of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley and childhood home of the current Mayor Richard M. Daley. Bridgeport has been the home of many Irish, some Poles, Croats, Lithuanians, Italians, Chinese and African-American Chicagoans. It held a political dynasty from 1933 until 1979, since every Chicago mayor was from Bridgeport. Before the town came into being, Bridgeport was the eastern end of the principal portage route between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River; then it became a canal station and

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was an early rail station. Some neighborhoods in Bridgeport are undergoing rehabilitation (and, in some cases, gentrification).

As of the 2000 census, Bridgeport had a population of 33,694 (up 12.78 percent from 1990). According to the 2000 census, the population of Bridgeport was 41 percent white, 30.2 percent Hispanic or Latino of any race, 26.1 percent Asian, and 1.05 percent African American. From 1990 to 2000, households in linguistic isolation (a household where the primary language for all members 14 years old and over is not English, and English is spoken less than “very well”) increased 5.5 percent, totaling 18.7 percent.<sup>1</sup>

The median income for a household in Bridgeport is \$43,335; 18 percent of the population and 15 percent of families are below the poverty line. Out of the total population, 27.4 percent of those under the age of 18 and 16 percent of those 65 and older are living below the poverty line.

## Community Issues and Concerns

To learn about resident and community concerns regarding the site, EPA conducted several community interviews on October 9-11, 2007. EPA talked with local officials, business owners and residents living and working near the Peoples Gas (former MGP) sites and asked them about various issues related to the contamination and cleanup at the sites, the community involvement process, the communication process to date, and how the community involvement process could be improved.

### Summary of Community Interviews

Twenty-eight residents, business owners and local and county officials were interviewed on October 9-11, 2007. Most of those interviewed live or work in the Bridgeport area. The results of the meetings showed varying levels of knowledge about contamination at the former MGP sites. Several of the residents have lived in the area since childhood, others for 10 years or more. Long-time residents and local officials indicated that the sites have received minimal coverage in the local media; however, most of the residents were interested in cleanup and redevelopment activities at the sites.

Below are the specific questions EPA asked and a summary of the responses provided at the October 2007 community interviews.

### **Are you aware of contamination at the various manufactured gas plant sites along the river near Ashland Ave./Halsted St. including the 22nd Street Station, Hough Place Station, Pitney Court Station, South Station and Throop Street Station?**

The majority of those interviewed had some awareness about the sites. Several residents near the South and Throop Street stations were aware of the contamination and had made complaints about the trucks using their street during the cleanup. Two people did not know there were gas plant sites, but believed the area was contaminated.

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<sup>1</sup> 2004 Consortium on Chicago School Research.  
[http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/web\\_reports/Schoolageenvironment/communities/comm60.html](http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/web_reports/Schoolageenvironment/communities/comm60.html)

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One person said he was aware of a problem caused by the gas plant across the street from his home, as the house rumbled when cleanup work was going on at the site. Another person owns part of a site and said there are odors, possibly from the underground tanks.

Business owners near the sites tended to be aware of the contamination. One business owner bought his land from Peoples Gas in 1979. Another owner had moved his business off a site due to the ongoing cleanup. (This Bridgeport Village cleanup is not related to the Peoples Gas sites).

Although not aware that contamination in the area was related to Peoples Gas, some knew the land where the Bridgeport Village community was built had been cleaned.

**How long have you been aware of these sites?**

Of those that were aware of the sites, some remembered the gas plants from when they were children in the area, including the tanks at Loomis and Throop. Business owners tended to become aware of the sites during the purchase process.

A couple of business owners were aware of contamination on the sites since 1979. They became aware of the contamination when smells were discovered during the foundation digging.

Residents near the South and Throop Street sites became aware of the sites when the Illinois EPA cleanup started about 2 or 3 years ago. One nearby resident found out about the contamination when they closed on their property about 3 years ago.

A resident that grew up in the Pitney Court neighborhood knew the site had once been a manufactured gas plant, but he was not aware the site was contaminated. He assumed, however, there was some residue.

**Are you interested in receiving more information about the sites? If yes, what's the best way to provide that information to you (email, regular mail)?**

Almost everyone interviewed wants to receive more information about the sites. Of those, only a few preferred e-mail updates to regular mail.

**Do you feel the sites have received adequate coverage by the local/regional media?**

The majority of those interviewed do not think the sites have received enough coverage by the media. Most had never seen anything on television or in the paper concerning the sites. One resident who has lived in the area for 3 years had never seen anything and thinks the public deserves to know.

Many people felt that more information on the sites should be publicized and that if there are dangers, people should be informed.

One business owner was not sure that the site needed more media coverage. He was concerned that over-emphasis would make the cleanup more expensive.

**What type of media (e.g., newspaper, internet, radio) do you rely on for information about the sites? What stations and papers do you prefer?**

Most people identified the following media for information:

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- *Bridgeport News*
  - *Back of the Yards (Journal News)*
  - *Gazette*
  - *Chicago Sun-Times*
  - WGN, Channel 9
  - PBS, Channels 11 and 20
  - Red Eye

Fact sheets also were recommended as a good way of providing information about the sites.

**How frequently do you think public meetings about the sites might be held? Would you attend?**

Most of those interviewed said meetings are good when there is news to provide about the sites and said they would definitely attend if given an opportunity for input.

For possible meeting locations, they mentioned St. Barbs, McGuane Park, Benton House near the Holden School, Benito Juarez High School at Cermak and Ashland streets, and City College at 27th and Western streets.

**Are there any other people or groups you think we should talk to about the Peoples Gas sites?**

Those interviewed suggested the following:

- Pilsen Planning Committee
- Pitney Court Neighborhood
- 11th Ward Democratic Organization
- 11th Ward Alderman
- Friends of the River, especially if there is contamination of the river sediment
- Friends of Chicago River
- Chicago River organizations
- Curly Cohen of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program
- Area churches
- Other businesses in the area of the Throop Street Station, including SuperCartage and Midwest Generation

One alderman suggested that information be given to the police stations so it could be distributed to CAPs groups at periodic meetings.

**When possible, site information is posted on EPA's Web site. Have you used the EPA Region 5 Web site?**

Most people had not visited EPA's Region 5 Web site. One person had researched the Peoples Gas sites. A couple of people had visited the general EPA site, and one person used it for checking ozone status. Others said that they would use the Web site now to find information on the Peoples Gas sites.

**How interested are you in environmental issues in general?**

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Of those interviewed, most are interested in contaminants from the energy plant, vehicular traffic/trucks, and expressway pollution. They are concerned about the nearby power plant and the issues related to the smoke that comes from it.

Some people are very concerned with air and water pollution and carbon dioxide from cars and electric companies. They also are concerned about the water quality and use attainability of the Chicago River, as well as global warming and the clean water shortage.

Recycling also is important to a couple of people, and they would like to see the neighborhood cleaned up.

**Have you had contact with government officials about any of the sites? Do you feel these officials have been responsive to your concerns?**

Most people had not been in contact with any government officials about the sites, while others had contacted government officials and were still trying to figure out what is going to happen with the cleanup. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has provided some information, as well.

One person had contacted Illinois EPA and felt they were responsive. In addition, one business owner found his alderman to be responsive.

A group of neighbors close to the Throop Street and South sites was not pleased by a local official's response to their complaints about truck traffic from the cleanup, as trucks were using their residential street to carry contamination out of the site. These individuals had signed a petition to get something done. The group said an EPA investigator came out and redirected the trucks. The neighbors felt EPA handled it well.

**What are your concerns about the contamination at these sites?**

**(If yes to #1)**

Questions that were asked about the sites included the following:

- Who is doing the cleanup work?
- What's being done? When will it be done? What will be on the site, and who is paying for the cleanup? What is the cost of the cleanup?
- Who reviews and evaluates the cleanup?
- What is the contamination, and how far south is the cleanup going?
- What are the health risks? Are there possible future health risks from long-term exposure?
- What are the post-cleanup risks? What are the current risks during the cleanup?
- Will the cleanup keep the contaminants contained?
- As they take contaminated soil out, is it getting into the air and posing a danger?
- Is the contamination in the river?

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- Where do you draw an arbitrary line about where to clean up? What about right-of-way, ground water, and contamination in the street itself?
  - What about contamination under buildings?
  - Will Peoples Gas studies be available?

The following concerns were expressed, as well:

- There were additional concerns from residents about the process of the work, especially concerning commercial trucks being used to remove contamination. Many pointed out that the trucks were using residential streets, spreading the contaminated material and driving too fast. They said trucks were not covered, so the dirt was not contained and dust was getting on their vehicles, in their yards, etc. They were pleased that Peoples Gas eventually covered the trucks and began using a new route.
- The contamination under the Peoples Gas building and parking lot still has not been cleaned. Though property surrounding the building and lot were cleaned.
- People are concerned that taxpayer money is being used for the cleanup; even though Peoples Gas is paying, the assumption is that gas bills are being raised to pay for it.
- People want to know why delays are occurring and are concerned that Illinois EPA and EPA (concerned parties) are not talking to each other.
- They are concerned with the dust created from digging in the contaminated dirt.
- No one ever told them what the risks are and what safe levels are - although they were reassured it was at a safe level.
- There is a smell from the cleanup.
- There is concern about the cleanup's affect on the foundations of the houses in the area.
- There is no transparency in what is going on concerning the cleanups.

**What risks do you think the sites, in their current state, pose to you or your children?**

When an employee of one of the site owners died, no one was sure if the contamination played a part. There was a lot of fear. Employees were bringing bottled water to work. The business was not willing to stay onsite while the cleanup is in progress.

Some people are concerned about workers' safety at the site, mentioning machine operators should be in clean cabs during the cleanup work. People also are worried about what the trucks are hauling and that they are traveling too fast on the residential streets.

One person said he does not want kids playing next to toxic waste. He takes his children out of the neighborhood to play. People would like to see the site declared safe for everyone, but kids are being kept inside to avoid exposure to the dust and contaminated soil.

Residents also want to know if the cases of cancer on the block are related to the contamination.

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One couple is not overly concerned because their yard was excavated for their house and basement. Their general concern involves the possibility of seepage.

**Would you like to see these sites redeveloped? How?**

Most would like to see the sites redeveloped as parks, residential, or light industrial. Some of the areas are zoned as a Planned Manufacturing District. If redeveloped, even if light industrial, most would like the areas declared safe for everyone for all uses. They would like to see the sites returned to some useful purpose, with a mix of both commercial and residential uses.

Several people thought it would be good if the sites were made into parks. One person said a park would give the kids somewhere to play and that the area would be nice for canoeing and kayaking. Some people are under the impression that one site is being sold to the City of Chicago Park District for small boats, kayaks, and a park.

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## Proposed Community Involvement Activities

The next step for EPA is to address the concerns and questions that were expressed about the site. To do this, EPA is proposing to keep people informed by:

### Sending Fact Sheets

EPA will develop a mailing list for the site and will mail fact sheets to those on the site mailing list as a way to give updates on the site and its activities. The fact sheets will be mailed out periodically to inform the public about upcoming meetings and important technical information.

In addition to sending fact sheets via first class mail, EPA will develop an e-mail distribution list for interested parties who prefer e-mail. Each fact sheet will be sent to e-mail recipients as a “.pdf” file at the same time the fact sheet is mailed.

All site fact sheets will be posted on EPA’s Web site.

### Holding Periodic Community Meetings

EPA will hold community meetings at key milestones. The meetings will be announced via newspaper notices, e-mail messages, and fact sheets. The preferred location for meetings is the gymnasium at McGuane Park located one block west of 29th and S. Halsted Avenue.

### Staying in Contact with Stakeholders

In addition to fact sheets and public meetings, the site e-mail distribution list that will be developed based on interest could be used to provide regular, concise updates ranging from a few sentences to a few paragraphs.

### Maintaining Information Repositories

Documents and other site materials will be available at official information repositories maintained at the various neighborhood branches of the Chicago Public Library.

Repositories will be located at the Back of the Yards, McKinley Park, Canaryville, Richard J. Daley, and Lozano branches. The branch locations and hours are located in Appendix A.

Documents and site materials also are located at EPA’s Record Center. See Appendix A for location and hours.

### Working with Local Media

The most widely read newspaper by local residents is the *Bridgeport News*. It is expected that EPA would publish all notices in the *Bridgeport News* as appropriate. A contact list of area media is included in Appendix A. Fact sheets and other information will be sent to the entire media contact list for their use.

### Using the Internet

EPA will maintain and regularly update a Web site, which will contain information about the sites, site activities, and upcoming meetings. EPA will place technical documents, including this one, on the Web site.

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## Having a Presence

EPA's community involvement coordinator and remedial project managers will respond to inquiries from those interested in the Peoples Gas sites throughout the cleanup. They also will be available to speak to local citizen groups, upon request. EPA's toll-free telephone number and the project staff's direct numbers and e-mail addresses will be included on all community involvement material.

**Appendix A**  
**Peoples Gas Plant Sites**  
**(Near Ashland Avenue and Halsted Street in Chicago)**  
**Contact List**

**Federal Elected Officials**

Senator Richard J. Durbin  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2152  
Fax: 202-228-0400  
E-mail: durbin.senate.gov

District Office:  
Kluczynski Federal Office Building  
230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3800  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 312-353-4952  
Fax: 312-353-0150

Senator Barack Obama  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2854  
Fax: 202-228-4260  
E-mail: obama.senate.gov

District Office:  
Kluczynski Federal Office Building  
230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3900  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 312-886-3506  
Fax: 312-886-3514

Representative Luis V. Gutierrez  
2367 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-8203  
Fax: 202-225-7810  
E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep>

District Office:  
1310 W. 18th St.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 312-666-3882  
Fax: 312-666-3894

Representative Dan Lipinski  
1717 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1303  
Phone: 202-225-5701  
Fax: 202-225-1012

District Office:  
6245 S. Archer Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60638  
Phone: 312-886-0481  
Fax: 773-767-9395

Representative Danny K. Davis  
2159 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1307  
Phone: 202-225-5006  
Fax: 202-225-5641

District Office:  
3333 W. Arthington St., #130  
Chicago, IL 60624  
Phone: 773-533-7520  
Fax: 773-533-7530

**State Elected Officials**

Governor Rod Blagojevich  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-782-6830  
Fax: 217-524-4049  
E-mail: [governor@illinois.gov](mailto:governor@illinois.gov)

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District Office:  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 312-814-2121  
Fax: 312-814-6775

Pat Quinn  
Lieutenant Governor  
214 State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-782-7884  
Fax: 217-524-6262  
E-mail: [www.state.il.us/ltgov](http://www.state.il.us/ltgov)

District Office:  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 15-200  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 312-814-5220  
Fax: 312-814-4862

Antonio "Tony" Muñoz  
Illinois State Senator, District 1  
124 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-782-9415  
Fax: 217-558-6006  
E-mail: [munoz@senatedem.state.il.us](mailto:munoz@senatedem.state.il.us)

District Office:  
2021 W. 35th St.  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 773-869-9050  
Fax: 773-869-9046

Senator Rickey R. Hendon, District 5  
627 State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-782-6252  
Fax: 773-265-8617  
E-mail: [hendon@senatedem.state.il.us](mailto:hendon@senatedem.state.il.us)

District Office:  
2928 West Madison  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Phone: 773-265-8611  
Fax: 773-265-8617

Susana Mendoza  
Illinois State Representative, District 1  
200-1S Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-782-7752  
Fax: 217-782-8917  
E-mail: [repmendoza@aol.com](mailto:repmendoza@aol.com)

District Office:  
2500 S. Millard  
Chicago, IL 60623  
Phone: 773-277-7711  
Fax: 773-277-6196

Representative Edward Acevedo, District 2  
109 State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-782-2855  
Fax: 217-782-7762  
E-mail: [eacevedoed@ilga.gov](mailto:eacevedoed@ilga.gov)

District Office:  
2021 W. 35th St.  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 773-843-1200  
Fax: 773-843-9500

Representative Arthur L. Turner, District 9  
300 State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-782-8116  
Fax: 217-782-0888  
E-mail: [turneral@ilga.gov](mailto:turneral@ilga.gov)

District Office:  
3849 W. Ogden Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60623  
Phone: 773-277-4700  
Fax: 773-277-4703

## County and Local Officials

### City of Chicago

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor, City of Chicago  
City Hall - 121 N. LaSalle, Room 307  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-744-3300  
Fax: 312-744-8046

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Sadhu Johnston  
Commissioner  
City of Chicago Department of Environment  
30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2500  
Chicago, IL 60602-2575  
Phone: 312-744-7606  
E-mail: [environment@cityofchicago.org](mailto:environment@cityofchicago.org)

Terry Mason, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Commissioner  
City of Chicago Department of Public Health  
DePaul Center, Room 200  
333 S. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 312-747-9884  
E-mail: [publichealth@cdph.org](mailto:publichealth@cdph.org)

Chicago Alderman  
James A. Balcer  
Alderman 11th Ward  
3659 S. Halsted St.  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 773-254-6677  
E-mail: [jbacer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:jbacer@cityofchicago.org)

Chicago Alderman  
Danny Solis  
Alderman 25th Ward  
2439 S. Oakley Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 773-523-4100  
Fax: 773-523-9900  
E-mail: [Ward25@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward25@cityofchicago.org)

#### Cook County

Todd H. Stroger  
President  
Cook County Board  
118 N. Clark St., Room 537  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-603-6400  
Fax: 312-443-4397

Joseph Mario Moreno  
Commissioner, 7th District  
Cook County Board  
118 N. Clark St., Room 567  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-603-5443  
Fax: 312-603-3759

Kevin Givens, Director  
Department of Environmental Control  
Cook County  
69 W. Washington, Room 1900  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-603-8200

#### EPA

Mike Joyce  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 5 (P-19J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507  
Phone: 312-353-5546 or (800) 621-8431  
ext. 35546  
E-mail: [joyce.mike@epa.gov](mailto:joyce.mike@epa.gov)

Tim Prendiville  
Remedial Project Manager  
Office of Superfund (SR-6J)  
EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590  
Phone: 312-886-5122  
E-mail: [prendiville.timothy@epa.gov](mailto:prendiville.timothy@epa.gov)

Peter Felitti  
EPA Region 5 (C-14J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507  
Phone: 312-886-5114  
E-mail: [felitti.peter@epa.gov](mailto:felitti.peter@epa.gov)

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## **Illinois EPA**

Maggie Carson  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Room 611, Stratton Building,  
401 S. Spring  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: 217-558-1536  
E-mail: [maggie.carson@illinois.gov](mailto:maggie.carson@illinois.gov)

## **Information Repositories**

Richard J. Daley Branch  
3400 S. Halsted St.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 312-747-8990 or 312-747-3239  
Fax: 312-747-0939

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-9; Friday & Saturday 9-5; Sunday closed.

Location: On Halsted Street at the corner of a park and turnaround for 34th Street. Within one of the community's main shopping areas.

Mckinley Park Branch  
1915 W. 35th St.  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 312-747-6082  
Fax: 312-747-1982

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-9; Friday & Saturday 9-5; Sunday closed.

Location: Located between Winchester and Wolcott streets on the south side of 35th Street.

Lozano Branch  
(recommended by Alderman Solis)  
1805 S. Loomis St.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 312-746-4329  
Fax: 312-746-4324

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-9; Friday & Saturday 9-5; Sunday closed.

Location: Centrally located in the heart of the Pilsen community. On the southeast corner of the busy three-way commercial intersection of 18th Street, Loomis Street and Blue Island Avenue.

EPA Region 5 Superfund Record Center  
Ralph Metcalfe Building, Room 711  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

Monday-Friday 8-4. Please contact Janet Pfundheller, Records Manager at 312-353-5821, or Linda Ross, Assistant Records Manager at 312-353-6626 for details or further assistance.

## **Public Meeting Locations**

Chicago Park District Mcguane Park  
2901 S. Poplar Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 312-747-6497

## **Media – Newspapers**

*Bridgeport News*  
Joe Feldman, Publisher  
3252 S. Halsted St.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 312 842-5883  
Fax: 312-842-5097

*Gazette*  
Mark J. Valentino  
Editor and Publisher  
1335 W. Harrison St.  
Chicago, IL 60607-3318  
Phone: 312-243-4288  
Fax: 312-243-4270  
E-mail: [pr@nearwestgazette.com](mailto:pr@nearwestgazette.com)  
Web site: [www.nearwestgazette.com](http://www.nearwestgazette.com)

*Lawndale News*  
5416 W. 25th St.  
Cicero, IL 60804  
Phone: 708-656-6400  
Fax: 708-656-2433

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*(Back of the Yards) Journal News*  
1751 W. 47th St., 2nd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 773-927-7200  
Fax: 773-927-7940  
E-mail: journalnews@bync.org

*Chicago Sun-Times*  
350 N. Orleans, 10th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60654  
Phone: 312-321-3000

*Chicago Tribune*  
435 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611-4041  
Newsroom/Editorial: Phone: 312-222-4440

### Spanish Newspapers

*Hoy*  
Octavio Lopez, Local Editor  
435 N. Michigan Ave., 22nd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-527-8478  
E-mail: olopez@hoyllc.com

*La Raza*  
Jorge Mederos, Executive Editor  
6001 N. Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60660  
Phone: 773-273-2014  
Fax: 773-273-2927  
E-mail: agenda@laraza.com

*Extra*  
3906 W. North Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60647-4618  
Phone: 773-252-3534  
Fax: 773-252-6031  
E-mail: info@extranews.net

*El Imparcial*  
3116 S. Austin Blvd.  
Cicero, IL 60804  
Phone: 708-656-9800  
Fax: 708-656-6679  
E-mail: impanews@aol.com

### Media – Television

WBBM (CBS-Channel 2)  
630 N. McClurg Ct.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-944-6000  
Fax: 312-202-3878

WCIU (Independent-Channel 26)  
26 N. Halsted St.  
Chicago, IL 60661  
312-705-2600  
Fax: 312-705-2656

WFBT (Independent-Channel 19)  
26 N. Halsted St.  
Chicago, IL 60661  
Phone: 312-705-2623  
Fax: 312-705-2620

WFLD (Fox-Channel 32)  
205 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 312-565-5532  
Fax: 312-819-1332

WGN (Warner Bros.-Channel 9)  
2501 W. Bradley Pl.  
Chicago, IL 60618  
Phone: 773-528-2311  
Fax: 773-528-6050

WLS (ABC-Channel 7)  
190 N. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 312-750-7777  
Fax: 312-899-8019

WMAQ (NBC-Channel 5)  
454 N. Columbus Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-836-5555  
Fax: 312-527-5925

WPWR (UPN-Channel 50)  
2151 N. Elston Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60614  
Phone: 773-276-5050  
Fax: 773-276-6477

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WSNS (Hispanic-Channel 44)  
454 N. Columbus Dr., 5th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60622  
Phone: 312-836-3000  
Fax: 312-836-3232

WTTW (PBS-Channel 11)  
5400 N. Saint Louis Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60625  
Phone: 773-583-5000  
Fax: 773-509-5304

WYCC (PBS-Channel 20)  
7500 S. Pulaski Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60652  
Phone: 773-838-7878  
Fax: 773-581-2071

#### **Spanish Television Stations**

WFBT (Multi-Cultural-Channel 23)  
Weigel Broadcasting  
26 N. Halsted St.  
Chicago, IL 60661  
Phone: 312-705-2623  
Fax: 312-705-2666

WGBO (Spanish-Channel 66)  
Univision Television Group  
541 N. Fairbanks Ct., Suite 1100  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-670-1000  
Fax: 312-494-6491

WSNS (Spanish-Channel 44)  
Telmundo Group, Inc.  
454 N. Columbus  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-836-3000  
Fax: 312-836-3034

#### **Media – Radio**

WBBM-AM Newsradio 780  
Two Prudential Plz., Suite 110  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 800-784-6397  
Fax: 312-297-7822

WGN-AM Radio 720  
435 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-222-4700  
Fax: 312-222-5165

WLS-AM Radio 890  
190 N. State St.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 312-357-1389

#### **Spanish Radio Stations**

WRTE-FM Radio 90.5  
1401 W. 18th St.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 312-455-9455  
Fax: 312-455-9755  
E-mail: [info@radioarte.org](mailto:info@radioarte.org)  
Web site: [www.radioarte.org](http://www.radioarte.org)

Univision Communications, Inc.  
Jerry Ryan, General Manager  
625 N. Michigan Ave., #300  
Chicago, IL 60611

La Que Buena-FM (105.1)  
Phone: 312-642-1051  
Fax: 312-981-1850

Pasion-FM (106.7)  
Phone: 312-751-5566  
Fax: 312-981-1850

VIVA-FM (93.5)  
VIVA-FM (103.1)  
Phone: 312-266-9848  
Fax: 312-981-1850

WIND-AM (560)  
WOJO-FM (105.1)  
WRTO-AM (1200)  
WVIV-FM (103.1)  
WVIX-FM (93.5)  
Phone: 312-981-1800  
Fax: 312-981-1820

Kovas Communications  
Frank Kovas, General Manager 2100 Lee St.  
Evanston, IL 60202

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WONX-AM (1590)  
Phone: 847-475-1590  
Fax: 773-277-1590

Spanish Broadcasting System  
Mario Paez, General Manager  
150 N. Michigan Ave., #1040  
Chicago, IL 60601

WDEK-FM (92)  
WKIE-FM (92.5)  
WKIF-FM (92.7)  
WLEY-FM (107.9)  
Phone: 312-920-9500  
Fax: 312-920-9514  
E-mail: [mpaez@sbschicago.com](mailto:mpaez@sbschicago.com)  
Web site: [www.spanishbroadcasting.com](http://www.spanishbroadcasting.com)

Moody Broadcasting  
Gerson Garcia, General Manager  
820 N. La Salle Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60610

WMBI-AM (1110)  
Phone: 312-329-4281  
Fax: 312-329-8989  
E-mail: [radio.esperanza@moody.edu](mailto:radio.esperanza@moody.edu)  
Web site: [www.radiomoody.com](http://www.radiomoody.com)