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## **LaGrange Street to be shut down**

### **NYSEG to excavate road, work could possibly take as long as year or more**

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Lockport Union-Sun & Journal — LaGrange Street could be closed for as long as a year — possibly longer — as the long-awaited excavation of the road will begin this week by New York State Electric & Gas Corp.

The road is closed from South Transit Street to Saxton Street on the east, a roughly 300-foot stretch. There's a Saxton Street home on the corner with a garage on LaGrange that'll be affected.

In a written statement, Lockport Police said LaGrange will be closed until further notice, possibly a year or more. That could create traffic issues, as LaGrange is used heavily for visitors going through the drive-through lane for the next door Tim Hortons restaurant on the corner of South Transit and Genesee streets. The location also has a Mobil gas station and a convenience store.

The reason for the closure is so NYSEG can excavate the road and remove contaminated soil from LaGrange and the NYSEG substation lot.

"They're going to dig the whole thing up," said Mayor Michael W. Tucker. "They wanted to get started in the winter because of a very strong odor that arises when the ground is open."

According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, cleanup would also involve installing a containment system around the substation lot; installing a barrier wall and collection system next to the canal to shield it from tar seeps in the bedrock; removing contaminated sediment in the canal; and extracting contaminants from bedrock and beneath substation equipment.

The site contains coal tar, a thick liquid byproduct of coal distillation that in higher concentrations is a carcinogen.

From the 1850s to 1927, the substation site housed a manufactured gas plant that burned coal and petroleum products to provide gas for homes and businesses. Over time, coal tar left behind settled into the soil and, ultimately, bedrock. The DEC said coal tar appears to have migrated north from the substation toward Genesee Street and the Erie Canal, which the tar is seeping into.

The site is a Superfund project and the entire tab is to be picked up by NYSEG. Back in 2009 when a public meeting was held concerning the project, the cost was estimated at \$11 million.