

**TOWN OF GREENWICH
GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT**

Western Middle School Fields Update

Additional Soil Sampling Completed to Better Define the Extent of Contamination
Remediation Will Need to Address Impacted Fill Across Majority of the Field
Groundwater Sampling Results Below Applicable State Standards
Next Steps: Agency Review and Concurrence; Remediation Plan Development

For Immediate Release: Greenwich, CT – Monday, April 22, 2019 - Pursuant to discussions with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), the State Department of Public Health (DPH), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in mid-2018, additional environmental sampling was completed at Western Middle School (WMS) by the Town's environmental consultant (Langan), to further evaluate the extent of impacted fill at the site. Following is a summary of the findings:

- ❖ Fill material beneath the WMS fields has been encountered at depths ranging from 1 to 10 feet below grade and appears to be present beneath most of the athletic field areas. The fill contains PCBs as well as other constituents (semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, and metals). Based on recent sampling results, the ultimate remedy selected for the site will need to address the impacted fill material across the fields, and not just in select areas. To date, Langan has not identified any compounds exceeding state standards for direct exposure in the surficial soils that are open to the public.
- ❖ Groundwater underlying the site is classified as "GB" and is not used as a drinking water source in the area. Langan's recent groundwater sampling did not identify any compounds above the applicable state standards. Given that the WMS fields have been open to rain and infiltration since placement of the fill in the early-1960s, the results suggest that contaminants present in the fill material are not leaching into groundwater at concentrations that would warrant action.

Langan and Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) attended a meeting with CTDEEP, CTDPH, and EPA on 20 March 2019 to review the most recent sampling data and discuss a path forward to cleanup and re-opening the fields. Langan was asked to provide some supporting documentation to the CTDEEP to assist them in their internal review, which will occur in the next couple of months. GPS and Langan are committed to continuing to develop the proper framework for completing remediation. Following additional regulatory review and concurrence by the agencies with a proposed cleanup approach, Langan will provide remediation work plans for the fields that will likely include the following:

- ❖ Development and execution of action plans for the protection of students, faculty, on-site workers, community, and the environment during soil disturbance activities;
- ❖ Excavation and off-site disposal of soils;
- ❖ Placement of a highly visible demarcation barrier (e.g. orange snow fencing) between residual site material and imported certified clean backfill material; and
- ❖ Backfilling of remedial excavation areas to grade with imported certified clean fill.

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Once a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has been drafted, it will be submitted to the regulatory agencies for review and concurrence. The time frame for implementation of the plan is based on the review schedules for EPA and CTDEEP and any additional requests these agencies may have. The RAP will also be provided to the community and discussed at a public forum so that the general public can provide comments to the Town and the reviewing agencies.

GPS will continue to provide updates to the community as new information become available.

Western Middle School Fields Project Background

In the summer of 2016, environmental soil samples were collected from the WMS fields resulting in concentrations of environmental constituents that exceeded the Connecticut CTDEEP Residential Direct Exposure Criteria (RDEC) in portions of the fields. Although concentrations of the constituents identified exceeded the RDEC, they did not exceed Federal or State regulatory thresholds requiring immediate reporting or action at that time. However, after initial consultation with the Town and State Departments of Public Health, the fields were closed as a precautionary measure. Subsequent evaluation of the soils under the field completed in November 2016 identified concentrations of PCBs above CT's RDEC of 1 mg/kg at three grid locations on the field. At one of the three locations, soil samples were reported to contain concentrations of PCBs above the CT significant environmental hazard (SEH) threshold of 15 mg/kg (15x the RDEC). PCBs were also determined to be above the concentrations allowed under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and its implementing PCB regulations. These findings required consultation with the EPA. Since 2016, environmental testing of the WMS fields has been ongoing and has included continued consultation with CTDEEP, CTDPH, and EPA. To date, over 550 soil samples have been collected across the fields (to depths of 10 feet) to evaluate the extent of impacts at the athletic fields to help design an appropriate remedy for the site.

For More Information:

Visit the GPS website at www.greenwickschools.org/wmsfields.

Inquiries should be directed to Kim Eves, Greenwich Public Schools Director of Communications, at kim_eves@greenwich.k12ct.ct.us or 203-625-7415.

About Langan: www.langan.com