

September 12, 2019

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING UPDATE

Project Status

Highlights:

- *The Site is safe for use – the Site continues to be safe and parking areas and athletic fields are available for use. Some fenced areas remain.*
- *The Site is part of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) Voluntary Remediation Program.*
- *Routine monitoring of the site is ongoing while remediation planning continues.*
- *The Town recently met with CTDEEP and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review investigation findings and discuss the next phases of remediation.*

Background

The Greenwich High School site is located at 10 Hillside Road in Greenwich, Connecticut. The site is a public high school and encompasses approximately 55 acres including the school building, parking areas and athletic fields. In mid-July 2011, during activities associated with the GHS Music Instructional Space Auditorium (MISA) project, unexpected soil conditions were discovered in the west parking lot at the high school. This finding prompted several rounds of environmental testing at the site, the initial findings of which indicated that levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were present in soil at concentrations above state and federal standards.

Investigation and Remediation Activities

Since the initial discovery of PCB impacts to soil, several rounds of environmental testing have been completed to evaluate the nature and extent of soil impacts throughout the site. Interim remedial actions have also been performed to address specific areas of the site, as well as facilitate the expansion and repaving of the western parking lot. These activities have been scheduled to minimize impacts to the high school and associated scholastic activities.

Environmental testing and remediation activities have occurred during school breaks (winter, spring, summer) to the extent possible. This has resulted in a timeline that may be extended more than would be expected for a remediation project at a typical industrial or commercial site where work can be performed throughout the year.

Throughout the environmental testing and remediation process, the Town of Greenwich (the Town) has engaged the EPA, CTDEEP, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH), as well as local boards and commissions to communicate ongoing testing activities as well as testing results.

Since entry into the CTDEEP VRP in 2017, the Town has prepared and submitted the following major reports* to the regulators:

- Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment
- Hydrogeological Investigation Report
- Completion of Investigation Report
- Interim Remedial Action Report
- Annual Progress Reports

Current Status and Next Steps

Comprehensive site investigation is winding down although environmental monitoring will continue. The Town met with the CTDEEP and EPA in mid-August to review findings of the environmental investigation, respond to regulator questions and discuss the upcoming phases of remediation. An updated site wide Remedial Action Plan (RAP) is being prepared and will be submitted to the CTDEEP and EPA in the fall of 2019. Regulatory review of the site wide RAP and coordination with the regulators will occur throughout 2019 and early 2020.

The next phase of remediation, expected to occur during the summer break of 2020, will focus on supporting renovation of athletic Fields 6 and 7. Limited remediation is also planned for localized areas around the site. Additional remediation will occur in subsequent summers.

Communications

The Town and the BOE will continue to provide the community with updates such as this one throughout ongoing regulatory review and performance of the cleanup work.

**Copies of all reports are available for review. Please contact Communications to schedule an appointment to review reports at the Board of Education.*

For information requests, please contact:

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OR, please visit our website for further information:

<http://www.greenwichschools.org/>

See link for "GHS Fields Remediation Project" under Building/Grounds Projects