

December 18, 2019

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING AND REMEDATION PLANNING UPDATE

Remedial Action Plan for First Phase of Cleanup under CT Voluntary Remediation Program

Highlights:

- **The Site is safe for use** – The high school grounds continue to be safe, and parking areas and athletic fields are available for use. Some fenced areas remain.
- In May 2017, the Site entered the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). Over the past two years, the Town has completed additional environmental studies to support the development of a cleanup plan (called the Remedial Action Plan).
- The **Town has submitted a Remedial Action Plan** to CT DEEP and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the first phase of remediation under the VRP. Phase I focuses on the northernmost athletic fields and several smaller areas on the site.

Public Opportunities to Learn, Review or Comment on the Remedial Action Plan:

Public Meeting

January 15, 2020 at Central Middle School at 6:00 p.m.
The public can learn more about the plan and offer comments in person

Public Comment Period

Through February 1, 2020, the public can provide input to CT DEEP and EPA on the cleanup plan.

A copy of the [Phase I RAP](#) can be reviewed at CT DEEP or on the Greenwich Public Schools website. (See text box on back of this page.)

Written comments can be submitted to:

Jeffrey Wilcox, CT DEEP
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Background

The Greenwich High School property is a public high school encompassing approximately 55 acres, which includes the school building, parking areas and athletic fields. In July 2011, during activities associated with the GHS Music Instructional Space Auditorium (MISA) construction 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. Since this initial discovery, extensive environmental testing has been completed to evaluate the nature and extent of soil impacts at the Site. Interim remedial actions were performed to address specific areas of the Site and protect Site users, as well as to facilitate the expansion and repaving of the western parking lot.

Throughout the early environmental testing and remediation process, the Town of Greenwich (the Town) engaged EPA, CT DEEP, and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH), as well as local boards and commissions to communicate testing results

and remediation activities. In May 2017, the Town entered the Site into the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) under Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) 22a-133x. The VRP provides a mechanism for formal CT DEEP oversight of the program and now guides the testing and remediation activities at the Site.

Since entry into the VRP in 2017, the Town has prepared and submitted the following major reports to the regulators: Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Addendum, Hydrogeological Investigation Report, Completion of Investigation Report, MISA Remedial Action Report, and Annual Progress Reports. These reports can be viewed on the Town's website. (See link on the back of this page).

Remedial Action Plan Submitted

The Town has submitted a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for a first phase of cleanup at the Site under the CT DEEP VRP. The RAP describes the planned cleanup activities to be conducted in 2020 (referred to as Phase I). The Phase I cleanup will primarily focus on the northern part of the Site to allow replacement of the artificial turf on Fields 6 and 7. These fields are scheduled to be renovated

during Summer 2020. The athletic fields and clean soil beneath them will be used as an Engineered Control to prevent human contact with deeper contaminated soils located beneath the fields. Shallow contaminated soil in five smaller areas will be removed from the Site. The majority of the work is scheduled to be completed during the school summer recess. The areas where Phase I remedial activities are being performed are depicted on the figure below.

Once these Phase I cleanup actions are finished, the remediation of the northern end of the high school property will be complete. A public meeting will be held on January 15, 2020 and the public comment period on the RAP is open through February 1, 2020. Please refer to the text boxes above and below for information about how the public can learn more or comment on the RAP.

Site Remediation Planning

Site remediation is being conducted in two primary phases to accommodate athletic field maintenance requirements while working with regulators to reach agreement on the final details of sitewide remediation. A RAP for Phase I (in Summer 2020) has been submitted, and a Phase II RAP that describes the planned cleanup activities for the remainder of the high school property is being developed and will be finalized in conjunction with the Agencies in 2020. The Phase II cleanup is expected to begin in Summer 2021.

Both the Phase I and Phase II RAPs focus on providing protection of human health and the environment while accommodating school activities. Additional information on Phase II remediation activities will be provided over the course of 2020.

For all information requests, please contact:
 Sasha Houlihan, Greenwich Public Schools Director of Communications
 203-625-7415 or sasah_houlihan@greenwich.k12.ct.us
 OR, please visit our website for further information:
<http://www.greenwickschools.org/>
 Departments → Buildings / Grounds Projects → GHS Fields Remediation Project

