

May 2020

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING AND REMEDATION PLANNING UPDATE

Phase I Cleanup under CT Voluntary Remediation Program to Start Summer 2020

Highlights:

- The Remedial Action Plan for the first phase of cleanup at the Greenwich High School property has been approved by CT DEEP and EPA (this phase of cleanup is referred to as Phase I).
- The Phase I cleanup focuses on the northernmost athletic fields and several small areas on the Greenwich High School property.
- Phase I cleanup is scheduled to start this June. Work will continue through the summer recess and include precautions for COVID-19.
- A copy of the Phase I Remedial Action Plan can be reviewed on the Greenwich Public Schools website. (See text box on back of this page.)

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 cleanup 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 environmental testing and remediation process, the Town of Greenwich (the Town) engaged the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (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) Section 22a-133x. The VRP provides a mechanism for 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, Phase I Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Phase I RAP Addendum, interim remedial action reports and annual progress reports. These reports can be viewed on the Town's website. (See link on the back of this page).

In order to accommodate athletic field maintenance requirements, school closing times, and input from the public and regulators to reach agreement on the final details of sitewide remediation, cleanup of the site has been separated into two primary phases.

Phase I Remedial Action Plan Approved

In December 2019, the Town submitted a RAP for the first phase of cleanup at the Site under the CT DEEP VRP. **The RAP has been approved by CT DEEP and EPA.** The RAP describes the planned cleanup activities to be conducted during the summer of 2020 (referred to as Phase I).

New artificial turf athletic fields and clean stone beneath them will be used as an Engineered Control to prevent human contact with deeper contaminated soils located beneath the fields. In addition, shallow contaminated soil in five smaller areas will be removed from the Site. The areas where Phase I cleanup activities are being performed are depicted on the figure below.

Cleanup Work to Start in June 2020

The Phase I cleanup will primarily focus on the northern part of the school property to allow replacement of the

artificial turf on Fields 6 and 7. These fields will be renovated during the summer of 2020.

The Town is currently contracting the work that will be performed this summer. We expect the work to begin in June.

Once these Phase I cleanup actions are finished, the cleanup activities necessary for the northern end of the high school property will be complete.

Continuing Site Remediation Planning

A second remedial action plan (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 CT DEEP and US EPA in 2020. The Phase II cleanup is expected to begin in Summer 2021.

Both the Phase I and Phase II RAPs focus on protecting human health and the environment while accommodating school activities and other uses of the school property. Additional information on Phase II remediation activities will be provided as it is developed over the course of 2020.

For all information requests, please contact:
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OR, please visit our website for further information:
<http://www.greenwichschools.org/>
Departments → Buildings / Grounds Projects → GHS Fields Remediation Project

