

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

Western Middle School Fields Update
Preliminary Summer Testing Results Released
Partial Field Re-opening Anticipated

For Immediate Release: Greenwich, CT - Wednesday, August 16, 2017 – Environmental testing of the Western Middle School (WMS) fields is ongoing. Although current summer sampling, testing and analysis are not complete, preliminary results from the most recent rounds of testing initiated in June have been shared. The initial findings indicate the need for additional sampling and analysis in at least two grid areas of the field.

In consultation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the CT Department of Public Health (CTDPH) and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), the District anticipates re-opening a portion of the WMS fields pending submission to and review of site safety and control measures by the regulatory agencies.

Summer Testing/Analysis

Last Spring, the USEPA requested additional soil sampling of the WMS fields to further evaluate the presence and extent of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)-impacted soil. A proposed sampling plan was submitted to the USEPA and CTDEEP in April 2017. Following the plan's review by the regulatory agencies, testing began in June. Delineation of the contaminated soil has been completed for one of three grid areas with PCB impacted soil (SS-28). Initial results of the other two grid areas (SS-31 and SS-37) indicate additional findings of PCB's at concentrations above the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)¹ threshold of 50 mg/kg.

While the District has not received a final report on the summer testing from Langan, the Town's environmental consultants, the findings to date are summarized as follows:

- 34 borings advanced around SS-31 & SS-37 to horizontally and vertically delineate PCB impacts at these locations. Langan continues to receive and review soil sampling delineation data for these locations; however, based on the most recent sampling data received (which identified PCBs at concentrations as high as 542 mg/kg) additional mobilization and field sampling may be required to further define the extent of PCB-impacted soils within the fields. Furthermore, the most recent sampling data also indicates that PCB-contaminated soil extends to areas beyond the athletic fields (to the north of SS-31 and to the east of SS-37), which are located on wooded downhill slopes with very limited access for drilling equipment. As a result, additional sampling will be required for these areas; however, it will be completed as part of future excavation activities proposed for the site.
- 15 borings sampled within the infields of the baseball and softball diamonds. At each location, one surficial soil sample was collected at 0 to 3 inches bgs, a second sample was

¹ The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976 provides EPA with authority to require reporting, record-keeping and testing requirements, and restrictions relating to chemical substances and/or mixtures. TSCA addresses the production, importation, use, and disposal of specific chemicals, including PCBs.

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

collected at 3 to 6 inches bgs, and a third sample was collected at 1 foot bgs. PCBs were not detected above 1 mg/kg in any of these samples collected.

- 52 borings on a grid pattern within the grass-covered athletic fields to characterize areas in between previously sampled locations. At each of these locations, one surficial soil sample was collected at 0 to 3 inches bgs. PCBs were not detected above 1 mg/kg in any of these samples collected.

Field Re-opening

Based on analysis and ongoing assessments and in consultation with the USEPA, CTDEEP and CTDPH, a portion of the Western Middle School fields will be re-opened pending the submission to and review of site safety and control measures by the regulatory agencies. The portion of the field designated to be re-opened has been tested and is not targeted for remediation. The partial re-opening will allow for the Physical Education and intramurals programs to resume on site. The school will still have access to Strazza Field, if needed.

Remedial Action Plan

Pursuant to discussions with USEPA and CTDEEP, once all data is received, Langan will develop remediation work plans for review and approval. The plans 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 impacted 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

Once the Remedial Action Plan has been drafted, it will be submitted to the regulatory agencies for review and concurrence. The time frame for approval of the plan is based on the review schedules for USEPA and CTDEEP and any additional requests these agencies may have.

The District will continue to provide updates to the community as new results and information become available.

Western Middle School Fields Project Background

Environmental testing conducted over the summer of 2016 on soil samples from the Western Middle School (WMS) fields indicated levels of constituents that exceeded the CTDEEP residential direct exposure criteria in some areas. Results of the initial testing did not detect concentrations of the constituents exceeding Federal or State regulatory thresholds requiring immediate reporting or action. However, based on these results, and after initial consultation with the Town and State Departments of Public Health, the Western Middle School fields were closed as a precautionary measure. Soil testing and analysis completed in November 2016 found concentrations of PCBs above CT's Residential Direct Exposure Criteria (RDEC) of 1 mg/kg at three grid locations on the field. At one of the three locations, soil samples were

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

reported to contain concentrations of PCBs above the CT significant environmental hazard (SEH) threshold of 15 mg/kg (15x the RDEC) and above the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) threshold of 50 mg/kg. These findings required consultation with the USEPA and initiated ongoing sampling and analysis in order to fully delineate the site to understand the extent of the impacted soil.

For More Information:

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

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About Langan: www.langan.com

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