

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT

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For Immediate Release

New Lebanon School Environmental Site Investigation
Supplemental Report on Proposed Construction Site

Greenwich, CT –Wednesday, May 27, 2015 – The Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) commissioned a supplemental investigation to the Phase II Site assessment to focus on the ravine area to the east of the New Lebanon School. This area of the site was recommended for the location of the proposed new school by the New Lebanon Feasibility Project Team. The Board of Education accepted this recommendation at its January 8, 2015 meeting. The Board of Selectmen initiated the Municipal Improvement (MI) process at the April 30, 2015 meeting. The Board of Selectmen requested that additional environmental information be collected from the proposed construction area.

Six soil borings were advanced and a total of six soil samples were collected from the proposed area of construction as part of the Supplemental Phase II Site Investigation. This is in addition to the two soil samples collected as part of the Phase II Site Investigation (Report released March 13, 2015). One sample collected during the May 2015 Supplemental Phase II Site Investigation contained arsenic at a concentration that exceeds the Residential Direct Exposure Criteria. While the result is above the regulatory criteria, it is not at a level that requires immediate regulatory notification or immediate action.

Based on what is known currently, regulatory criteria exceedences will be addressed during construction of the project and should not materially impact the project schedule or budget. Excess soil generated during construction activities will be evaluated to determine special handling requirements. This waste characterization is performed as a typical phase of construction.

To view the Phase II and Supplemental Phase II Site Investigation Reports at the Havemeyer Building, 290 Greenwich Ave., please contact Kim Eves at Kim_Eves@greenwich.k12.ct.us for an appointment.

For health and safety related questions please contact:

Greenwich Health Department:
Michael Long, Director of Environmental Service
mlong@greenwichct.org or 203-987-1001

Connecticut Department of Health:
860-509-8000 or visit:
http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3115&q=387254&dphNav_GID=1601

ATSDR Fact Sheet on Arsenic:
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts2.pdf>

New Lebanon School Building Project Background

Greenwich Public Schools is proposing a long-term, multifaceted solution for accelerating achievement and addressing the achievement gap, racial imbalance, and facility utilization difficulties as presented in the 2014 State approved Racial Balance Plan. The proposed New Lebanon Elementary School will be built to attract students from the entire town who are interested in an International Baccalaureate (IB) education. The facility must be sized to accept the larger enrollment from the catchment area, add space for magnet students, and add classrooms to restore the pre-kindergarten program.

New Lebanon Elementary School was originally built in 1956. Four classrooms were added in 1992. The pre-kindergarten program was moved out of the school for the 2012/13 school year and the kindergarten program moved out in 2014/15 school year to address overcrowding and relieve strain on the facility. Many of the classrooms are sized correctly, but all the special classrooms, gym, administration, and small group learning rooms are undersized. The smaller than average cafeteria and kitchen impact the school schedule.

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