

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT

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For Immediate Release

New Lebanon School Environmental Site Assessment Reports – Phase II
Soil Sample Analysis Conducted for Three Sites

Greenwich, CT - Friday, March 13, 2015 – The Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) commissioned a limited Phase II Environmental Site Investigation following the receipt and review of the Phase I Environmental Assessment ([Reference Phase I Report Release dated 3/3/15](#)), for each of the potential areas of New Lebanon School construction. The identified areas included the ravine to the east of New Lebanon School (Scheme C), the baseball field to the east of the Byram Shubert Library (Scheme B) and the New Lebanon School (Scheme A). After much deliberation and collection of input from the community, the baseball field and perimeter of the New Lebanon School were removed from consideration as potential areas of construction.

Eight soil borings were advanced and a total of eight soil samples were collected from the three potential construction areas. Three samples were collected from around the perimeter of New Lebanon. The Phase I assessment identified an active underground storage tank and an abandoned underground storage tank. The soil samples collected in this area showed no evidence of fuel oil or any other contaminants requiring action.

Two soil samples were collected from the ravine area. One of the samples showed no evidence of contaminants exceeding regulatory criteria. The other sample showed trace amounts of pesticides on the threshold of the Pollutant Mobility Criteria. The Pollutant Mobility Criteria are established to prevent pollution of ground water. These criteria apply to pollutants located above the water table. The pesticides do not exceed the Residential Direct Exposure Criteria. Based on the available data, direct contact with the soil in the ravine area is not a concern. The exceedance of the Pollutant Mobility Criteria will be addressed as part of the future construction phase of the project. No action is necessary at this time.

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.

Three samples were collected from the baseball field. Two of the three samples contain arsenic at concentrations above the Residential Direct Exposure Criteria. The samples were collected at a depth of one to two feet below ground surface. While the results are above the Residential Direct Exposure Criteria, they are not at a level that requires immediate regulatory notification or immediate action. It is important to note that the grass cover on the field is in good condition and that this minimizes the potential to come in direct contact with the soil. The Department of Parks and Recreation will continue

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to inspect and maintain the grass cover on the field as additional evaluation of the soil quality is conducted. The exposed earth on the basepaths and around home plate is typically imported for this use and is not expected to share the same characteristics as the soil beneath the grass areas. We are working with our consultant to evaluate the surficial soil to determine if further action is needed. This phase will commence as weather and snow melt allow. We are also working with the Town Department of Public Health and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. We encourage community members to contact these agencies with any health related questions. Our focus, as always, is on the safety of our community and we will continue to share environmental information as it becomes available.

To view the Phase II Environmental Assessment 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 the 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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