

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

**Western Middle School Fields Update**  
Soil Sample Analysis Continues to Identify Scope of Remediation

For Immediate Release: Greenwich, CT - Friday, December 8, 2017 – Environmental testing of the Western Middle School (WMS) fields is ongoing and the Town's environmental consultant (Langan) continues to evaluate the extent of PCB-impacted soil at the fields.

**December 2017 Update**

As reported in the 16 August 2017 WMS Fields Update, recent sampling consisted of 52 soil borings advanced across the site (on a grid pattern) to characterize areas in between previously sampled locations. At each of these locations, one surficial soil sample was collected at 0 to 3 inches below ground surface (bgs). PCBs were not detected above CT's Residential Direct Exposure Criteria (RDEC) of 1 mg/kg at any of these surficial soil samples collected.

In order to characterize the sub-surface fill material at each of these locations, Langan recently analyzed soil samples collected at 1 foot bgs. Of the 52 soil samples analyzed from 1 foot below grade:

- 8 soil sample contained PCBs above 1 mg/kg;
  - 1 soil sample contained concentrations of PCBs above the CT significant environmental hazard (SEH) threshold of 15 mg/kg (15x the RDEC), and
    - The one SEH exceedance (at 1 foot bgs) was identified along the eastern edge of the southern softball field and, will be fenced off to restrict access.
- No samples contained PCBs above the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) threshold of 50 mg/kg.

Please note that accessible surficial soils at these locations do not contain PCB concentrations in excess of the Connecticut Residential Direct Exposure Criteria (RDEC). In accordance with CTDEEP regulations, concentrations of compounds below the RDEC are considered to be protective of human health and the environment in a residential/school setting. We continue to work with Langan, EPA, and CTDEEP to develop a strategy for remediation of the ball fields.

**Remedial Action Plan**

Pursuant to discussions with USEPA and CTDEEP, once all data is evaluated, 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

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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 and implementation 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.

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**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. Additional 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 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.

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**Glossary of Terms**

**CTDEEP:** Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (State regulatory agency)

**CTDPH:** Connecticut Department of Public Health (State regulatory agency)

**USEPA:** United States Environmental Protection Agency (Federal regulatory agency)

**RSRs:** CTDEEP Remediation Standard Regulations

**PCBs:** Polychlorinated Biphenyls are a man-made organic chemical consisting of carbon, hydrogen, and chlorine atoms. Due to their non-flammability, chemical stability and electric insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications from 1929 until manufacturing was banned in 1979. USEPA has concluded that PCBs are a probable human carcinogen.

**RDEC:** The Residential Direct Exposure Criteria are numerical concentrations of a given chemical, deemed to be protective of human health and the environment in a residential or school use scenario, per the CTDEEP. The RDEC for PCBs is 1 mg/kg.

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**SEH:** Significant Environmental Hazard is a Connecticut General Statute that identifies a series of conditions that could pose potential short-term risk from exposure to pollution. The SEH threshold for PCBs is 15 mg/kg.

**TSCA:** Toxic Substances Control Act is a Federal law that provides the USEPA with the authority to regulate reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and restrictions related to chemical substances and/or mixtures, including PCBs. The TSCA threshold for PCBs is 50 mg/kg.

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**For More Information:**

Visit the GPS website at [www.greenwickschools.org/wmsfields](http://www.greenwickschools.org/wmsfields).

Inquiries should be directed to Kim Eves, Greenwich Public Schools Director of Communications, at [kim\\_eves@greenwich.k12ct.ct.us](mailto:kim_eves@greenwich.k12ct.ct.us) or 203-625-7415.

**About Langan:** [www.langan.com](http://www.langan.com)

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