

PROJECT UPDATE

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT
Greenwich Board of Education and Town of Greenwich, Greenwich, CT

February 24, 2012

Well Survey on Abutting Properties

What is the background on this project?

Environmental issues were identified at Greenwich High School (GHS) in mid July 2011, when unexpected soil conditions were discovered in the West (or back) parking lot, adjacent to the GHS athletic fields. This finding prompted several rounds of environmental testing. Initial test results showed levels of a class of chemicals known as polychlorinated biphenyls (or PCBs) in soil above standards set by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). These initial findings prompted the closure of all athletic fields at GHS as a precaution, until interim remedial measures (called IRMs) were completed. The IRMs included removal of surface soil in several areas surrounding the fields, and allowed the reopening of fields 1, 6 and 7. A comprehensive environmental study is currently underway; the results of this study will be used to develop cleanup plans for the Site.

Who is responsible for this project?

The Greenwich Public Schools/Board of Education and the Town of Greenwich are working together to address the environmental concerns at the GHS. Licensed Environmental Professionals (licensed by the DEEP) have been contracted to plan for and conduct the comprehensive environmental study and develop cleanup plans. Also, the Town and State Departments of Health (DPH) and Environmental Protection, and the Federal (U.S.) EPA are involved in consultation on the study and cleanup plans.

Why are you conducting a well survey?

At the request of the DEEP, we are conducting a survey of properties that are located within approximately 500 feet of GHS to identify if residents have a groundwater well for uses other than drinking (for example, lawn watering or car washing, etc.). We are conducting this survey as a part of the comprehensive environmental study of the site. It is a common task performed during environmental studies.

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, residents in the Town of Greenwich are supplied with public water by Aquarion. The public water supply system is regularly monitored in accordance with state and federal requirements. This water supply system has been in place since the 1940s. Thus, we do not expect that residents are using groundwater in the area for drinking purposes.

What happens next?

The results of this survey will be used to help us identify the uses of groundwater near the site as the environmental study continues and cleanup plans are prepared.

For all information requests, please contact:

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