JOINT RELEASE
Greenwich Board of Education and Town of Greenwich, Greenwich, CT

Friday, April 20, 2012

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING UPDATE

Site Investigation Status

Summary of Results from February 2012 Sampling Program

Introduction

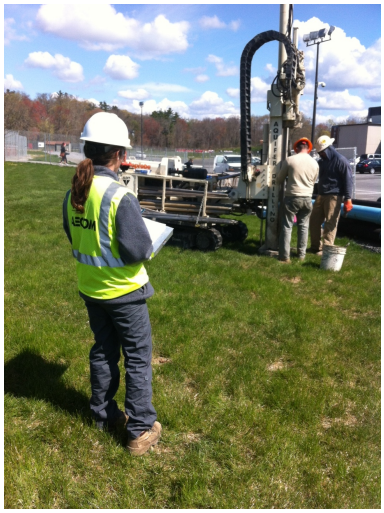
As discussed in the March 6, 2012 Project Update, a comprehensive environmental study of the Greenwich High School fields is underway. The first phase of this study was conducted over the school's December 2011 break, and the results of that program were discussed in the March 6, 2012 Update (*refer to page 2 of this Update for a link to our website to review older Project Updates*). A second phase of sampling was completed over the February 2012 school break. This Project Update provides a summary of these additional sampling results.

What environmental sampling was done in February 2012?

Over the school's February 2012 break, an environmental sampling program was completed. This program included:

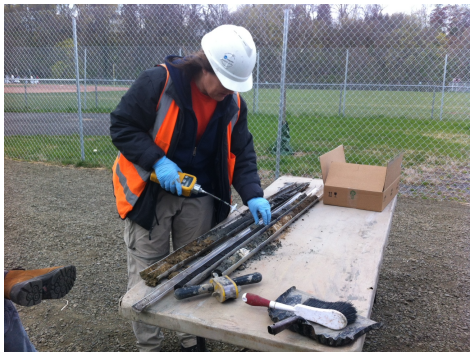
- 12 more soil borings in the vicinity of the athletic fields, where 33 soil samples were collected,
- 9 soil borings in other areas that had not been sampled previously (to evaluate if these areas were of potential concern),
- Installing 6 new monitoring wells in the vicinity of the athletic fields, and
- Sampling these 6 new wells plus the 4 existing wells.

Overall, 10 groundwater and 50 soil samples were collected. Similar to the December 2011 sampling work, all the samples collected were shipped to a state certified laboratory for analyses. The analytical data were then reviewed to ensure the data are of sufficient quality for decision making purposes.



What were the sample results?

February samples were analyzed for the same set of chemicals as the December 2011 samples. These included polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals such as lead and arsenic, petroleum hydrocarbons, and chlordane (a pesticide).



Soil Samples: Several soil samples were collected from areas of the site not previously sampled. The good news is that these samples were free of PCBs and other chemicals. Thus, it appears that we have "bounded" the lateral areas of potential chemical impacts at the site, as no new pockets of impacted soil were found.

Other soil samples collected during the February 2012 sampling program confirmed the results of earlier tests. PCBs continue to be found at depth (i.e., in deep samples) in the High School's western parking lot and east of Fields 3 and 4. Please note that while these PCB levels are not posing any immediate health risk to site users at this time (because people are not exposed to the soil this deep), the levels are of concern for potential impacts to groundwater.

Groundwater Samples: Chemicals associated with the site (e.g., PCBs) were not found in the new wells installed around the perimeter of the site. Although some metals (e.g., barium and zinc) were detected, the concentrations were below regulatory standards. This is good news, in that it appears the impacts to groundwater are localized to the central portion of the site.

In the central portion of the site, where the highest PCB concentrations were observed in groundwater after the December 2011 sampling, we found similar results. PCBs were detected at a well located in a spot where some of the highest PCB levels were found in soil (a spot between Field 3 and the west parking lot).

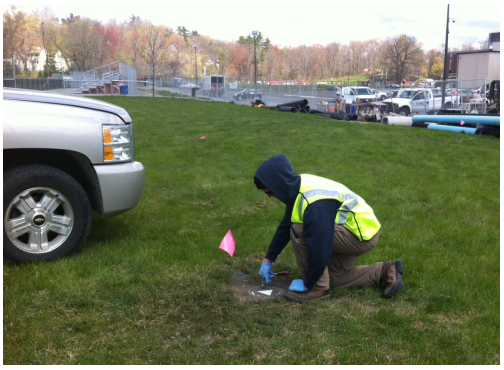
Other organic chemicals (mostly PAHs) were found sporadically in wells located in the central portion of the site, and the results are again comparable to the December 2011 results. These findings tell us that there are only limited impacts related to organic chemicals in the area where fill is observed.

Overall, please note that groundwater sampling results may vary between sampling events for many reasons (e.g., groundwater levels, temperature, etc.), thus we will continue

monitoring (sampling) so that we can better define the impacts. Additional groundwater samples were collected the week of April 16. These results will be evaluated and discussed in a future Project Update.

What happens next?

The sampling activities completed so far have provided a better understanding of the site, but we still need to sample under fields 3, 4, 6, and 7 to have a more complete understanding of overall site conditions. This additional sampling cannot be conducted under the fields until June, when sports activities are completed and there can be greater access to these fields. Because the fields are artificial turf, AECOM could not sample them in the winter months given the need for warm temperatures to repair the turf carpet, nor did we want to interrupt spring sports.



During the April 2012 break, another 49 soil borings were completed around the fields and additional groundwater samples were collected. Once these data are evaluated, a Project Update will be prepared summarizing the results.

Please note that it is typical for site characterization to proceed in the stepwise fashion AECOM has used so far – each time a sampling plan is prepared and completed, it provides information that in turn dictates what the next steps should be. While that can be frustrating for those outside the process, it is also how the costs of the sampling program are managed and controlled. One can see how the results from each sampling round can have a significant effect on what is next required.

There is much to do in the coming few months including:

- Evaluating the sample results from the April 2012 sampling.
- Continue sharing and communicating the results of the ongoing studies.
- Preparing for additional sampling programs in June and July.
- Beginning a study (called a Feasibility Study) to identify and evaluate remedial (cleanup) alternatives for the site. This study will include estimates of the overall cost for the cleanup, which is anticipated to be wrapped up by late Fall 2012.

After completing the Feasibility Study, the team will still have much work ahead, including remedial planning and design, and coordination with regulatory agencies for approvals to move forward.

For all information requests, please contact:

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OR, please visit our website for further information:

http://www.greenwichschools.org/
see link for "Updates for Environmental Testing at GHS"