



**Town of Greenwich
Dept. of Public Works
Interoffice Correspondence**

To: Local News Outlets **Date:** 27 December 2011

Copy: First Selectman's Office
Board of Education Office
D. Thompson, DPW
J. Ross, MISA Building Committee Chair

From: A. Siebert, DPW & M. Doherty, AECOM

Re: December 2011 Greenwich High School Soils Update

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has been asked some additional questions to supplement the most recent Board of Education (BOE) communication regarding the Greenwich High School (GHS) soils remediation as well as the Music Instructional Space and Auditorium (MISA) project. In the following, DPW and AECOM, the Town's program manager and consultant on this project, have outlined responses to the questions we have received from various media.

Question: Is more testing planned? What kind of testing is being done?

- Answer: A significant testing effort is underway, having begun on 27 December 2011 and continuing through the 30 or 31st of December, to take advantage of the GHS holiday break. Over 100 soil samples, as well as surface water, sediment, and groundwater testing will be executed in this period. This is considered the Phase II investigation noted in BOE updates.

After this testing, the Town's consultant will be very busy verifying and evaluating the test results, which will help define site contamination limits, what contaminants of concern are in various locations, and what may be expected in terms of remediation requirements. This will take some time.

Question: Is this all the testing required?

- Answer: More testing will need to be done in the summer, when testing under the artificial turf fields can be conducted. That testing cannot be done now given the weather and the need to have appropriate temperatures to repair the fields after testing. The data gathered from that will further define and refine the remediation needs and options for the site.

Because the testing is accomplished in this iterative fashion, cost estimates will continue to be reviewed and refined throughout this site characterization phase.

Question: How long will it be before DEEP will let you know about approvals for the fields, having implemented the interim remedial measures?

- Answer: "It depends." DEEP and EPA have been very helpful to the Town to date, providing timely approvals in order to accommodate the school schedule. However, DEEP and EPA have very limited staff and many competing projects in this area – this makes it very difficult to predict approval timing. We are hopeful that we will have all approvals in place to continue operations on the fields when sports season begins in Spring 2012. Fields 1, 6, and 7 are already approved for spring use.

Question: How has the schedule for MISA been impacted, and what are the short and long term schedules for the project?

- Answer: Soils were to be excavated and removed to prepare for the MISA foundation regardless, thus from a construction schedule standpoint, MISA should experience limited impact as a result of what lies in the building's footprint.

MISA continues to be fully supported by the BOE, who voted for necessary funds in their 2012-2013 budget.

Question: When will the Town know the long term remediation cost and timeframe for this project?

- Answer: It is premature to forecast a firm schedule and cost for this project. First, we must complete the next phases of site investigation (Phase II and Phase III), to get a much better grasp of the extent and types of contamination on the site and how such conditions can and may be remediated. As previously noted, we will be continuing to refine cost estimates with each investigation phase. Furthermore, future negotiations with regulators regarding remediation plans can affect project costs.

Having noted this, DPW is striving to bring the Board of Estimate and Taxation an update as soon as possible (late winter/early spring 2012), if possible, to provide a cost estimate range for planning purposes. DPW has already put together a 2012-2013 funding request for \$1.5 million to execute additional investigation, remedial selection and design, and to prepare for remediation itself moving forward.

Defining the project timeframe will also be a complex task. The GHS fields are home to a host of school programs as well as outside sports programs run by the Parks and Recreation Department. GHS operation itself requires parking and site access. In addition, the MISA project also requires space for its contractors. All these factors, as well as the regulators input regarding remediation schedule acceptability will all need to be considered as remediation plans are developed