

**April 13-15, 2005 (Including April PIP
Meeting Documents)**

New Keith Middle School

New Bedford, Massachusetts

Health & Safety Awareness Training Construction Contract #3

April 13, 2005

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Affiliation	Concerns, Issues
1.	Al Harnscom	BETA	NA
2.	John O'NEIL	LECO	NA
3.	J KILEY	DKC	N/A
4.	Bill Callahan	Seagamore	NA
5.	Rich Renda	Agostini Const	N/A
6.	George Gibson	G.A. Clivio	
7.	Sean Wallard	Agostini Const.	N/A
8.	Marco Aka	Agostini Const	N/A
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10.			
11.			
12.			
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14.			
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Health and Safety Overview

Phase III Construction Activities

Purpose

The purpose of this handout is to familiarize Phase III construction personnel with potential environmental risks associated with contaminated soil and ash wastes at the construction site of the New Keith Middle School and to identify prohibited construction activities.

Site Background

The site of the new Keith Middle School, formerly known as McCoy Field, is the location of ash wastes and debris deposited over 30 years ago. Historic dumping and burning activities were performed at and in the vicinity of the Site prior to construction of the high school in 1970. In 1994, the ash wastes and debris were spread across the Site and graded to facilitate construction of soccer fields. The maximum depth of ash wastes and debris is approximately 14 feet.

Environmental sampling conducted at the Site from August 2000 through February 2004 identified the following contaminants of concern:

- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs);
- Heavy Metals (Barium and Lead); and
- Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Under two site preparation contracts, WES Construction excavated and disposed of over 40,000 tons of contaminated soil, ash wastes and incidental debris at appropriately licensed off-site landfills. Significant environmental sampling has been performed by BETA, on behalf of the City of New Bedford.

Prior Site Construction Activities

The first site preparation contract was initiated in April 2004 and included the following construction activities:

- Stabilization of the embankment along the northern and western perimeter of the Site;
- Excavation of contaminated soil and ash debris to create several clean corridors to facilitate installation and maintenance of subsurface utilities; and
- Installation of new sewer, drainage and water main piping.

Work under the second site preparation contract included excavation and both on-site and off-site management of contaminated soil and ash wastes from the following locations:

- Additional utility corridors;
- Building pile caps and grade beams;

- Above grade fuel oil storage tank;
- Street light supports;
- Storm water detention basins; and
- Landscaped areas.

Most of the contaminated soil/ash wastes that need to leave the Site have already been shipped. However, a significant quantity of contaminated soil has been stockpiled at both the north and south ends of the Site for on-site reuse under the building and under landscaped areas that will be covered with at least three feet of clean granular material and topsoil. It is expected that all stockpiled soil will be reused at appropriate on-site locations over the next few weeks. In the meantime, the stockpiled soils will be covered with polyethylene sheeting.

Potential Hazards to Site Workers

Potential risks to workers during active excavation of contaminated soil/ash wastes included:

1. Inhalation of airborne dusts;
2. Ingestion of soil / dusts; and
3. Dermal contact.

The risks are managed by controlling the generation of dusts during soil/waste handling (application of water), and by using the following common sense precautions:

- Use of gloves when handling waste materials; and
- Hand washing prior to eating.

While Phase III activities are not likely to generate the level of risks identified above, the same practices are recommended.

Health and Safety Meetings

Safety refresher meetings will be conducted by the Site Safety and Health Officer from WES Construction* at least once weekly, or as needed, throughout the duration of work involving on-site management of contaminated soil/ash wastes. **Daily meetings with Phase III construction personnel to review Site activities planned for the day and Exclusion Zone (Active Work Zone) boundaries are strongly recommended.**

Agostini Construction has been provided with copies of both BETA's and WES's Site Specific HASPs, for reference, with the specific understanding that Agostini is solely responsible for the health and safety of their employees and subcontractors.

* Or other Remediation Contractor retained by Agostini.

Active Work Zones (a.k.a. Exclusion Zones)

Active Work Zones "AWZs" shall be defined as the limit or edge of an area surrounding activities where soil excavation or handling activities are occurring. The active work zone limits must be identified by the placement of orange high visibility, temporary construction fence, or other acceptable markers, in accordance with WES' Site-specific Health and Safety Plan. The limits of the AWZs may necessarily include travel ways between the soil stockpiles and the building footprint. In such cases, the Remediation Contractor shall clearly communicate the limits of the AWZ with the Agostini Superintendent.

Heavy equipment or other tools used by the Remediation Contractor to handle contaminated soil must be thoroughly decontaminated prior to leaving the contamination reduction zone (CRZ) or handling uncontaminated material (i.e. clean backfill) to remain at the Site.

Dust Monitoring

Continuous dust monitoring shall be performed during all construction activities involving contaminated soil /ash waste handling, until the stockpiles of waste material have been either placed within the building footprint and covered with geotextile fabric and at least six inches of clean granular fill material, or it is shipped for off-Site disposal. Certain conditions such as rain or snow cover may eliminate the need for continuous dust monitoring.

In addition to Remediation Contractor dust monitoring, BETA personnel will be monitoring downwind air quality for dust concentration. In the event that a concentration approaches 404 μg of inhalable particles per m^3 , the activities will be suspended until dust control measures have been implemented and the levels have been reduced to less than the action level.

Building Footprint

To protect on-site workers that will work on pile caps and grade beams (within the building footprint), the following provisions have been implemented. Upon completion of a pile cap(s), contaminated soil / ash wastes will be placed by appropriately trained workers into the remaining pile cap excavation area to a depth of six inches below the top of the pile cap. A geotextile barrier fabric be installed directly over the waste and then covered with a minimum of six inches of clean granular fill material. Non-OSHA-trained workers are permitted to perform grade beam formwork.

Upon completion of grade beams, additional PCB remediation waste may be backfilled in the area of the grade beam to a depth of approximately two feet below the bottom of the building slab. A geotextile barrier fabric will be installed directly over the waste material and then six to eight inches of clean granular fill material will be placed on top of the fabric.

Landscaped Areas

In landscaped areas outside of the new building footprint:

- Fill material has been, or will be, removed to make room for three feet of clean fill beneath final grade;
- A geotextile fabric will be placed over the remaining ash wastes;

- A layer of granular material will be placed over the geotextile fabric;
- A minimum of three feet of clean material will be placed over the geotextile fabric; and
- Landscaping will be established.

Paved Areas

- Fill material has been, or will be, removed to make room for a minimum of two feet of granular material beneath the paved surface;
- A geotextile fabric will be placed over the remaining fill;
- A 12" +/- layer of granular material will be placed over the geotextile fabric;
- Warning barrier will be placed; and
- A minimum of 6 inches of granular material will be placed over the barrier.

Prohibited Construction Activities

1. Unauthorized excavation below the warning barrier and soil separation fabric placed under previous site preparation contracts; and
2. Entering exclusion zone (Non-OSHA trained Personnel).

In the event you see any "suspect" site conditions – odor, soil discoloration, dusts from contaminated area, etc. – please notify one of the following individuals immediately:

- **Al Amaral or Evan Warner, Mount Vernon Group, Inc. – 508/991-7500**
- **Al Hanscom or Jackie Huggins, BETA – 781/255-1982**
- **Scott Alfonse, City of New Bedford – 508/979-1487**

City of New Bedford

New Keith Middle School - McCoy Field

Public Information Meeting #10

April 13, 2005

Introduction of Project Team Members

Project Construction Update

- Pile Cap / Grade Beam / Utility Excavations complete
- Pile caps and grade beam construction – 50% complete
- Subslab utilities under construction in clean corridors

On-Site Environmental Issues

- Approximately 60,000 tons of contaminated soil shipped to date.....95% <50 ppm
- Dust levels remain very low (<1% of action level) – results in repository binders
- Approximately 5,000 cubic yards to be placed under building foundation; complete in 4-6 weeks
- Dust control to also be employed in clean areas of site

Off-Site Environmental Issues

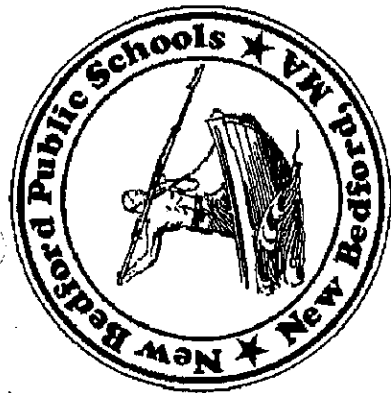
- Seeking access agreements from residential property owners along Durfee, Ruggles and Greenwood Streets, as well as Bethel AME and Skating Rink properties – DEP to assist
- Overview of High School sampling results – see handout

Wetlands Characterization & Cleanup Issues

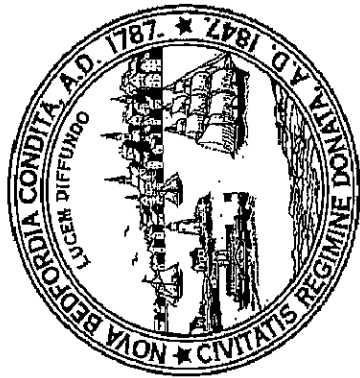
- Seventy-two samples collected to date.....Average PCB concentration: 1.3 ppm
- Supplemental environmental sampling to be performed (40+/- samples per acre)
- Initial ecological risk characterization results indicate limited removal of sediments in depositional areas only.....to be scheduled for dry period (August 2005)
- **Target cleanup goal: 1 part per million**
- Separate risk based cleanup request for wetlands to be submitted later this month
- Notice of Intent to be filed with Conservation Commission

EPA Risk Based Cleanup Request

- Submitted to EPA on March 21, 2005
- Initial EPA review comments on cap design received April
- Supplemental review comments expected by end of this week
- Response to EPA comments to be submitted next week



City of New Bedford
 in association with the
School Department



Public Involvement Plan Meeting
 Sign-In Sheet - April 13, 2005

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Title (circle one)	First Name	Last Name	Street, City, State, Zip	Phone Number/ E-mail Address
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	Edwin	RIVERA, SR	277 UNION ST NEW BEDFORD MA 02740	508 9795910 HARCMB @AOL.COM
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	Eddie	Johnson	61 Mt. Vernon St New Bedford, Mass 02746	(508) 990-2090 JhelJohnson@aol.com
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	KAREL	VILANDRY	P.O. BOX 750 FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719-0700	508 957-1184

Title (circle one)	First Name	Last Name	Street, City, State, Zip	Phone Number/ E-mail Address
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	BRIAN WOLLEY	WOOLLEY	249 SUMMIT ST. N.D.	ABCNOTPCB @AOL.COM
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	EVAN	ROUSSAO	389 CEPAN ST.	AAOT/WBSSM
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	Ken	Pittman	249 Bayport Ln ALB 02740	Concerned Citizen/WBSSM
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	Paul	Cornwell	627 Hornet St NB 02740	
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	Tracy	N'Guisa	251 Hillcrest, N.B. MA 02740	

Title (circle one)	First Name	Last Name	Street, City, State, Zip	Phone Number/ E-mail Address
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	EVORA	VIVIAN	502 LIBERTY ST NB, MA 02740	
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	Christine	DeBARRIS	190 Surfco St, NB MA,	
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	John	Day	119 Greenwood ST, NB MA	
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	THOMAS J. PINA		832 SHAWMUT AVE NEW BEDFORD MA 01746	
Mr. + Mrs. Ms.	Thomas C.	Sargent	186 Metcalf Street New Bedford, MA 02745-2553	

Title (circle one)	First Name	Last Name	Street, City, State, Zip	Phone Number/ E-mail Address
Mr. Mrs. Ms.	ARTHUR	SMONEY	1120 ROCKDALE AVE 02740	508 9901597
Mr. Mrs. Ms.				
Mr. Mrs. Ms.				
Mr. Mrs. Ms.				
Mr. Mrs. Ms.				

City of New Bedford

New Keith Middle School - McCoy Field

High School Soil Sampling Results Summary

April 13, 2005

Discussion of Analytical Results

To date, a total of 290 soil borings have been advanced and 219 samples were submitted for laboratory analyses. Of these 219 samples, 219 were submitted for PCBs, 141 composite samples were submitted for RCRA 8 Metals, and 83 composite samples were submitted for SVOC analysis.

Analytical results were compared to standards set forth in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP 310 CMR40.0000) S-1 Soil Standard. According to 310 CMR40.0933 (5), Category S-1 applies to unpaved accessible surficial soils (0-3' below grade); a child's frequency or intensity of use is considered to be high; an adults frequency and intensity are considered to be high. Additionally, Category S-1 applies to potentially accessible soils (unpaved and 3-15 ft deep or paved 0-15 ft deep) and a child's frequency and intensity of use are both considered to be high. Refer to the attached tables for a summary of laboratory analytical data. Please note that the totals do not include samples collected for QA/QC (i.e. duplicates, matrix spikes and matrix spike duplicates).

The following key observations apply:

- A total of thirty (30) surface soil samples were collected and analyzed for PCBs. Only three of the thirty surface soil samples exceeded the applicable Method 1, S-1 standard of 2 ppm. The average exposure point concentration for all surface soil samples was determined to be 0.69 ppm.
- The maximum PCB concentration in surface soil (0-1 foot deep) was 6.51 ppm at location HS-2.
- The maximum PCB concentration encountered in the soil sample collected from 0.75 to 3 feet deep at Location HB-23 was 25.76 ppm; however, the average PCB concentration in soils up to four feet deep is less than 3 ppm.

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EPA set to allow work at Keith site

Residents protest building school on PCB-tainted area

By AARON NICODEMUS, *Standard-Times* staff writer

NEW BEDFORD -- Despite vehement protests from neighbors, activists and several city councilors, an official from the EPA said last night that the agency is prepared to approve the city's proposal to cap the new Keith Middle School site. Approval of the capping plan would clear the last significant impediment to the plan to build a new Keith on top of soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls.

Kim Tisa, representing the EPA, told the 40 or so people in attendance in the library of Keith Middle School last night that the agency had minor technical questions about the city's plan to place a permeable barrier and 3 feet of clean soil over the contaminated soil at the site. She said the agency also had some questions about long-term monitoring of contaminants at the site. She called the plan conservative, which meant that the steps taken to contain contaminated soil went beyond what the EPA would have required.

"The proposed plan is conservative and I'm not overly concerned that the city is trying to cut corners on this site," she said. "If I had any doubts about what was being proposed, I would have hit them a long time ago."

But those in attending demanded that Ms. Tisa, as well as other officials who were there, answer yes-or-no questions about the site.

They asked Ms. Tisa, "Would you build a school on this site?"

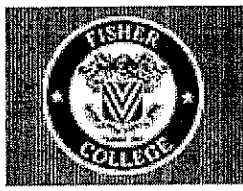
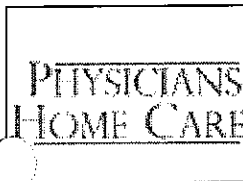
Ms. Tisa answered that if she had other sites to choose from, "if there was a clean site out there, you'd want to give it consideration. ... You'd want to look at something with no concerns on it." But she stressed that the decision to build the new Keith Middle School on the Hathaway Boulevard site was not her agency's; it was the decision of the New Bedford School Committee.

The committee voted to place the school there in 2000, after ruling out three other sites: the current Keith Middle School site, the Carter Brooks Elementary School site and the Walsh Field site. None of those sites contains contamination, but each was eliminated for financial, logistical or political considerations.

"I did not site the school here. What we're trying to do is go from this point, and do whatever has to be done to make this site safe for a school," Ms. Tisa said.

The city has removed 62,000 tons of soil contaminated with PCBs from the site, at a cost of about \$5 million, according to Alan Hanscom, the engineer overseeing the cleanup of the site. About 3,100 tons of soil was considered highly contaminated enough to send to a special landfill in Michigan; the rest was trucked to a regular landfill in New Hampshire. Mr. Hanscom told residents

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that all of the soil that would be removed had already been removed, and the remaining contaminated soil would be left where it lies.

The city's plan is to place a plastic woven barrier over the entire site, place a foot of clean soil over that, then a warning barrier of orange snow fencing, then two more feet of clean soil, and then build the school over that. The EPA has not officially endorsed the plan, but has not indicated it has any major issues with it.

Mr. Hanscom was asked if he would send his children to this school. He said he would. But residents immediately noted he does not live in New Bedford.

They asked School Committee member Nancy Feeny if she would send her children to the school. She has two children in the public school system.

"Do I have faith in the city's plan? Yes I do," she said, fighting to ignore interruptions from Mr. Lopes and others. "I have to rely on what I hear. ... I'm very content with the plan I've heard."

But those who attended last night's meeting said in no uncertain terms that they are opposed to building a school over contaminated soil. There were a number of groups represented, including neighbors of the site, community activists, city councilors, talk show hosts from WBSM and others.

"You may sense some anger, some bitterness, because we've had some terrible experiences," said Thomas Lopes, a former state representative whose home looks out over the new Keith site.

"They've told us everything was fine at Morse Cutting Tools, they've told us everything was fine at Rodney Metals, they've told us everything would be within acceptable levels, and then people get sick," he said. "There shouldn't be any question about putting a school on this site. It's incomprehensible. No matter how you try to suppress these contaminants, they will come out."


Arthur Shorey, a Rockdale Avenue resident attending his first meeting, said his faith in the officials in charge of ensuring the site's safety was shaken by what he heard.

"I put my faith in the EPA, the DEP and the city of New Bedford," he said. "I come to this meeting and now I'm saying, what's going on here. I'm a little skeptical now of all the agencies involved."

This story appeared on Page A1 of The Standard-Times on April 14, 2005.

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