

# Public Involvement Plan Meeting

January 16, 2013

**David M. Sullivan, LSP**  
**TRC Environmental Corporation**  
**Lowell, Massachusetts**



# Agenda

## ☐ *Topics*

- *Opening Statement from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)*
- *Lawsuit and Project Funding updates*
- *Project Updates*
  - **Liberty Street Activity and Use Limitation Update**
  - **Acquired Residential Properties and Nemasket Street Lots – Release Abatement Measure (RAM) Plans**
  - **New Bedford High School – Mechanical Room**
- *Project Update Q&A*
- *General Q&A*
- *Next PIP Meeting*



Massachusetts  
Department  
*of*  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

# **Millie Garcia-Serrano**

**Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Waste Site**

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental  
Protection – Southeast Regional Office**

# MassDEP - Role and Responsibility

- ❑ *Ensure protection of human health, public welfare & the environment*
- ❑ *Technical and/or compliance assistance*
  - *Parties conducting response actions (e.g., City of New Bedford)*
  - *Affected community and property owners*
- ❑ *Document review and approval where applicable*
  - *Reports and files available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup>*
- ❑ *Ensure response actions conducted in compliance with performance standards and deadlines*
- ❑ *Coordinate with other agencies when applicable*
  - *USEPA PCB Coordinator (Toxic Substances Control Act – TSCA)*
  - *Conservation Commission*
  - *Massachusetts Department of Public Health*
- ❑ *Ensure public is informed of and provided opportunity to comment on response actions*
  - *PIP Plan compliance*



# Lawsuit and Project Funding Updates



# Liberty Street Slim

Activity and Use Limitation Update

# Acquired Residential Properties & Nemasket Street Lots

## *Acquired Residential Properties Release Abatement Measure (RAM) Plan*

- Public comment period Aug. 21 – Sept. 21, 2012; no comments received
- EPA approval of proposed removal of PCB-impacted soil from these properties under Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) received Dec. 2012
- RAM Plan submitted to MassDEP in December 2012.

## *Nemasket Street Lots*

- City re-visiting remedial approaches (Temporary vs. Permanent Solution)
- City plans to issue a RAM Plan instead of a Phase III report
- City will also seek EPA's regulatory approval under TSCA
- Public comment period expected to start February 22, 2013



# Acquired Residential Properties & Nemasket St. Lots

## Phase II – Conclusions

### Environmental media evaluated

#### ➤ Soil

- *Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and chlorinated dioxins/dibenzofurans are risk drivers.*
- *Locations & depths of PCB concentrations regulated under Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA):*
  - *118 Ruggles Street (1 location)*
  - *101 Greenwood Street (4 locations)*
  - *102 Greenwood Street (6 locations)*
- *See letters from TRC to EPA August 15th and November 2nd, and EPA letter to City of New Bedford Dec. 10th for further details*

#### ➤ Groundwater

- *Results below applicable Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Groundwater Standards*

No Imminent Hazard conditions exist.

Supplemental soil sampling to refine PCB impacted soil volumes per TSCA before initiating PCB soil removal under Release Abatement Measure (RAM) Plan.

# Acquired Residential Properties & Nemasket St. Lots

## RAM Plan - Objectives

### *Remedial Elements*

- *Soil excavation/disposal*
- *Exposure barriers (e.g., soil/pavement)*
- *Activity and Use Limitation (AUL)*

### *Remedial Goals*

- *Permanent solution with AUL: Class A-3 Response Action Outcome (RAO)*
- *Satisfy Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) requirements*
- *Specific end use details to be determined in the future.*

**- Update -**

# **New Bedford High School**

**Soil, Groundwater, and Vapor Intrusion (Mechanical Room)**

# Mechanical Room

## Immediate Response Action (IRA) Update

- ❑ Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), petroleum and PCBs in separate phase liquid detected in soil/groundwater under Mechanical Room
  - Hydraulic control (see below) and subslab venting system installed in February/March 2012.
  - No Significant Risk to the health of building occupants associated with the IRA condition (before or after system startup)
  
- ❑ Hydraulic control system includes two pumping wells that extract groundwater from below the Mechanical Room.
  - The pumping action controls groundwater movement locally.
  - The extracted groundwater is treated and then discharged to City water treatment system.
  
- ❑ Subslab venting is performed through one of the pumping wells. Vapor is treated and discharged through the former NBHS incinerator stack.

# Mechanical Room

## Immediate Response Action (IRA) Update

- ❑ *Concentrations of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have dropped significantly since system startup*
  - *Before hydraulic control system installed, trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations exceeded 100 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in one well.*
  - *Recent sampling has not found TCE concentrations over 0.1 mg/L in any monitoring well.*
  
- ❑ *2012 activities included work to delineate PCBs in soil beneath the Mechanical Room floor*
  - *PCB-impacted soils are located beneath several structural columns and below the groundwater table.*
  - *Complex location due to overhead obstructions (air ducts, piping) and subslab features (pipes, wiring); scheduling limitations*
  
- ❑ *Ongoing Discussions with MassDEP and EPA on further assessment activities to refine volume estimates necessary to evaluate a final remedy*

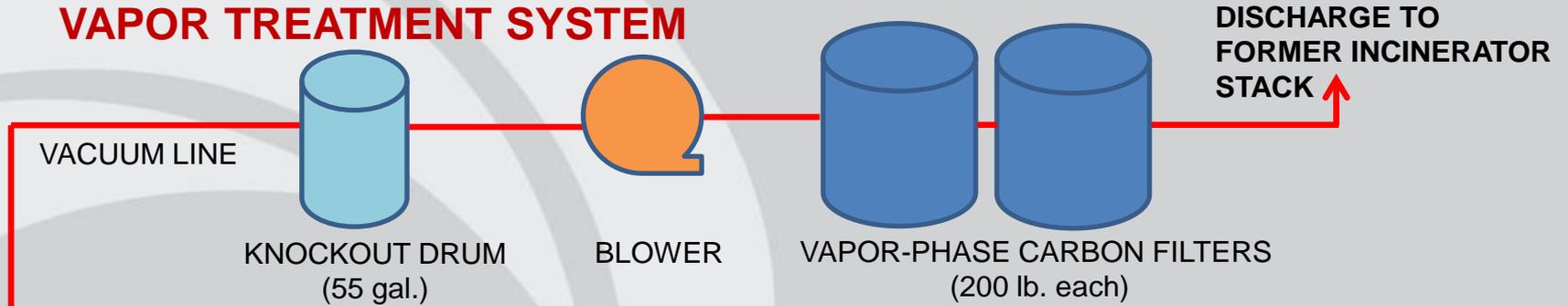
# Project Update Q & A

## High School Related

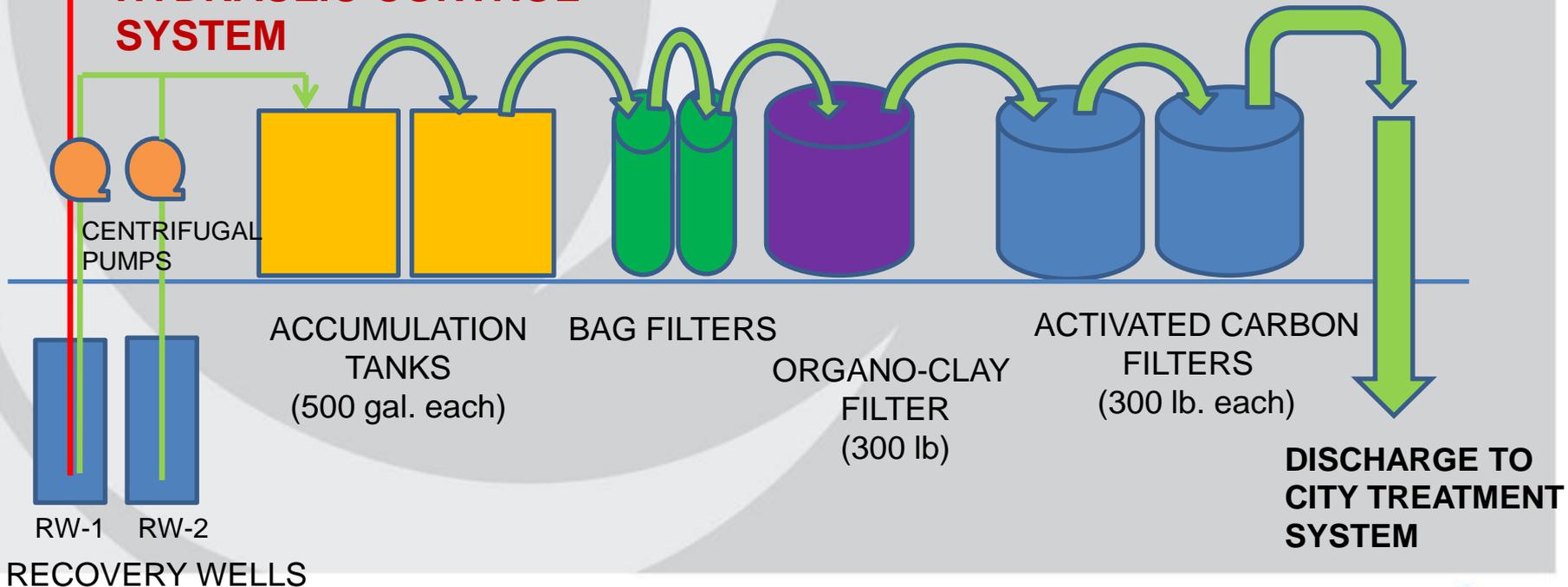
***Q. Please provide a little more detail as to the pumping system you are using to extract the ground water. Diagrams and a layout would help the overall knowledge of just what exactly is being done.***

***A. An engineering diagram for the system is included in the NBHS Immediate Response Action (IRA) Status Reports (see Nov. 2012 IRA Status Report). A simplified diagram has been prepared and is presented in the next slide.***

## VAPOR TREATMENT SYSTEM



## HYDRAULIC CONTROL SYSTEM



# High School Related

**Q. *What is the long term solution to the mechanical room TCE problem?***

**A. *The trichloroethene (TCE) impacts have diminished since system startup, due in part to biological degradation of contaminants. The long term solution will likely address both PCBs and TCE. Discussions are ongoing with MassDEP and EPA on further assessment activities to refine volume estimates necessary to evaluate a final remedy.***

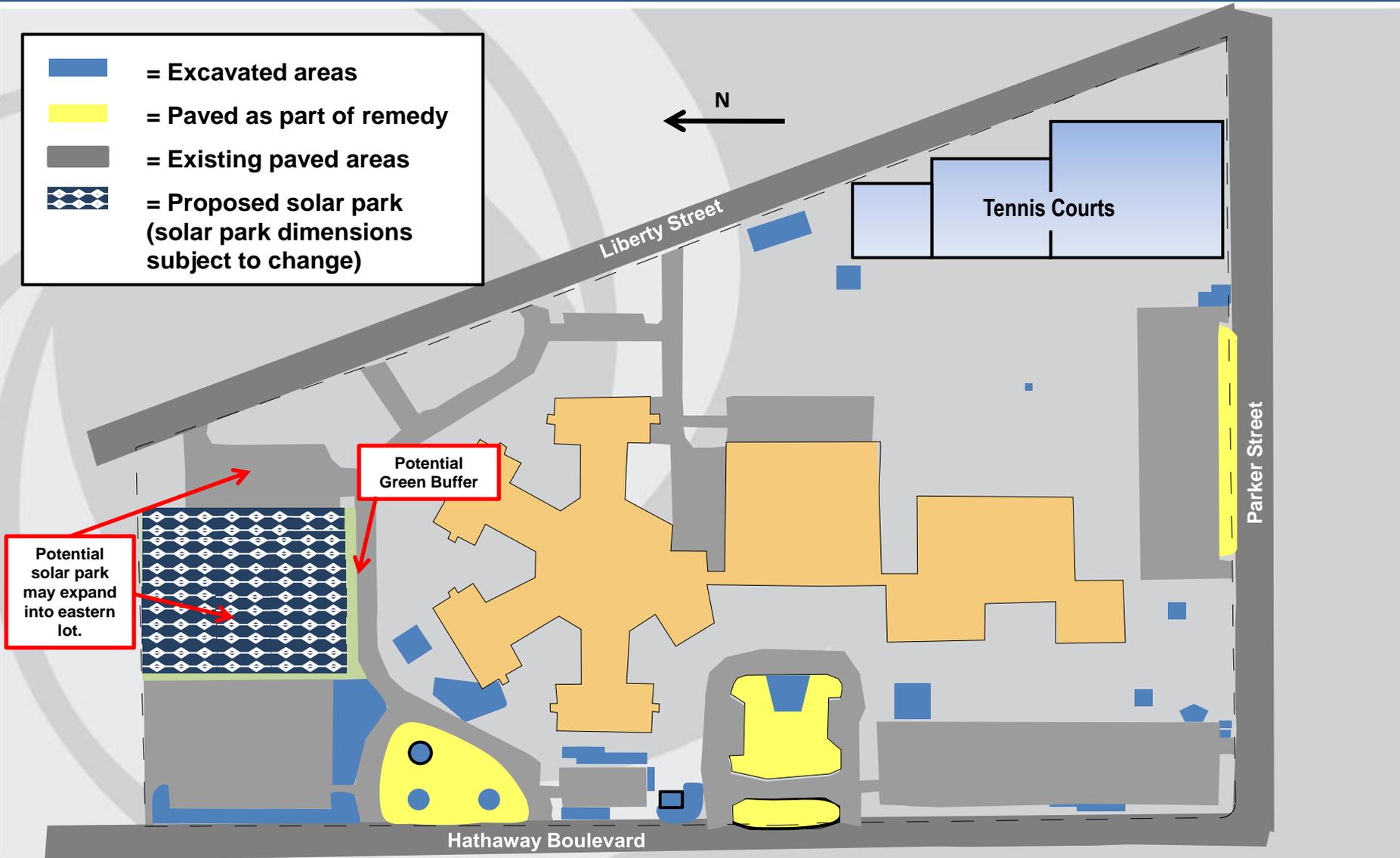
## High School Related

***Q. Soil removal - Is there any more soil planned to be removed on the high school property? If so where and what is the schedule?***

***A. Some soil may be removed from the property during the remediation of the north area of campus referred to as HS-8, located between the two parking lots. This soil removal is covered by the July 2011 RAM Plan Modification for the NBHS Campus. A schedule has not been determined for this work yet, but is expected to be worked out by March 2013.***

# Remaining NBHS Campus Soil Remediation

-  = Excavated areas
-  = Paved as part of remedy
-  = Existing paved areas
-  = Proposed solar park (solar park dimensions subject to change)



## Dioxin Related

***Q. Wasn't dioxin to be included in the list of chemicals that were a concern? What is the status of that?***

***A. It is included. Across the Parker Street Waste Site (PSWS), more than 70 soil samples have been analyzed for chlorinated dioxins and furans, including dioxin-like PCBs. All the detected compounds associated with the PSWS contribute to the calculation of risk.***

## High School Related

***Q. Regarding building maintenance records as to the heating and air conditioning systems and their functionality: Last preventative maintenance done, by who and what were the results?***

***A. Environmental Stewardship forwarded this request to Al Oliveira, Facilities Manager for the school department. Mr. Oliveira can be reached at 508-997-4511 x2296.***

## High School Related

***Q. What is the status of indoor air quality at the high school (not just the testing of the three rooms that remain closed due PCBs concentrations the air)?***

***A. City met with EPA earlier today to map out next steps.***

# General Q&A

# Near-term Document Review Schedule

❑ Documents expected to be released for public comment in 2013:

❖ *Nemasket RAM Plan (February 22, 2013)*

❖ *Liberty Street Slim Partial Response Action Outcome (RAO) - TBD*



Nemasket Lots During Clearing

**Thank You for Coming**

**Next meeting to be scheduled  
for the second quarter 2013  
(specific date to be determined)**