



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

Southeast Regional Office • 20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville MA 02347 • 508-946-2700

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February 23, 2011

Scott Alfonse, Director  
Office of Environmental Stewardship  
City of New Bedford – City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

RE: **NEW BEDFORD**  
Release Tracking Number: 4-22409  
New Bedford High School  
**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE ACTION PLAN**  
**MODIFICATION APPROVAL**

Dear Mr. Alfonse:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (MassDEP), is in receipt of an Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan Modification submitted for Release Tracking Number (RTN) 4-22409 related to a Condition of Substantial Release Migration (SRM) and Critical Exposure Pathway (CEP) identified on the New Bedford High School property. The IRA Plan Modification was prepared and submitted on behalf of the City of New Bedford (the City) by TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC). The IRA Plan Modification details on-going activities related to the detection of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in both groundwater and the indoor air of a portion of the New Bedford High School. On April 9, 2010, MassDEP provided the City written approval to conduct IRA activities, as described in the March 2010 IRA Plan previously submitted by TRC.

The IRA Plan Modification summarizes activities conducted to date and proposes additional assessment and possible mitigation measures to be conducted related to this detection. Activities to be conducted, as described in the IRA Plan Modification, include, but are not limited to: removal of VOC-impacted groundwater and soil vapors in the vicinity of shallow monitoring well MW-27 by pumping and vacuum extraction (identified in the IRA Plan Modification as Total Fluid Extraction or TFE) and off-site disposal of the impacted groundwater. The proposed activities will occur over a one-day period. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted in the vicinity of MW-27 several weeks after the event. Additional events may be conducted if monitoring results indicate that it is a useful and cost-effective approach to reducing concentrations of VOCs in this area.

MassDEP acknowledges that the City posted public notices of the availability of the IRA Plan Modification and held a public comment period from January 24, 2011 through February 14, 2011. The City did not receive written comments on the IRA Plan Modification.

Based on its review of the IRA Plan Modification, and in accordance with 310 CMR 40.0420(6), MassDEP hereby provides approval to the City of New Bedford to implement the IRA activities as proposed in the IRA Plan Modification, and as conditioned herein:

1. The City, or its contractor, shall provide MassDEP a minimum of seventy-two hours notice prior to commencing field work associated with the IRA Plan Modification. When providing such notice, please provide the name and contact cellular phone number of the person responsible for project management and oversight at the Site;
2. TFE events should be conducted when school is not in session and students are not likely to be present;
3. Pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0425(6)(b), a Remedial Monitoring Report should be submitted along with the next IRA Status Report, which is due to be submitted to MassDEP on May 20, 2011.

Please also be advised that, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0424(2), IRA Plans are to be updated and modified, if necessary, based on the acquisition and evaluation of significant new information and data on the release, threat of release and/or new site conditions. Any significant modification of an IRA Plan must be submitted to MassDEP in writing for review and approval.

All inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Molly Cote at the letterhead address or by calling (508) 946-2792. All future communication regarding this matter must reference Release Tracking Number: **4-0022409**.

Sincerely,



Leonard J. Pinaud, Chief  
State & Federal Site Management Section  
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

P/MC/lg

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ec: Scott W. Lang, Mayor - City of New Bedford

City of New Bedford - Health Department

Eddie Johnson, President – C.L.E.A.N.

Kim Tisa, USEPA Region 1

David Sullivan, LSP - TRC

MassDEP-SERO

ATTN: Lara Goodine, Data Entry [APWRIT]

David Johnston, Acting Regional Director

Millie Garcia-Serrano, Deputy Regional Director