

Walsh Field Release Abatement Measure (RAM) Plan Summary November 2009

The City of New Bedford plans to reduce the potential for human exposure to chemicals detected at Walsh Field as described in the October 2009 *Release Abatement Measure Plan, Contaminated Soil Removal at the Walsh Field Athletic Complex, Parker Street Waste Site, New Bedford, Massachusetts, Release Tracking Number – 4-15685*. TRC Environmental Corporation prepared this Release Abatement Measure (RAM) Plan for the City of New Bedford (City), and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) conditionally approved the Plan in writing on October 30, 2009. The RAM Plan is the subject of a 20-day public comment period from October 30 2009 to November 19, 2009. Those wishing to comment should submit comments to Scott Alfonse with the City's Department of Environmental Stewardship.

Why is this RAM Necessary?

The City previously investigated and appropriately responded to chemicals in the top foot of soil at Walsh Field to protect students, faculty, and others who use the field. However, chemicals remain in the top three feet of soil, and MassDEP regulations require that this soil meet its requirements for protection of human health as defined in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP; 310 CMR 40.0000). To determine what further action is needed to meet MassDEP requirements, TRC conducted separate evaluations for five areas of the field: the football field, the soccer field, the practice area (including the softball diamond), the junior varsity baseball field, and the varsity baseball field. TRC concluded that Exposure Point Concentrations for dibenzofuran, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), diesel range organics (DRO), arsenic, cadmium, and lead in the top three feet of soil exceed Massachusetts cleanup standards. (An *Exposure Point Concentration* is not the concentration at a single sampling location but instead represents an average concentration across an area where someone might contact chemicals.) The RAM plan has been designed to eliminate soils in the top three feet with chemical Exposure Point Concentrations higher than cleanup standards.

What are the Basic Elements of the RAM Plan?

TRC's RAM Plan consists of removing approximately 2,300 cubic yards of soil from eleven discrete areas and possibly treating excavated soil to allow for off-site re-use and/or disposal at a licensed facility.

The specific work to be performed for this RAM includes:

- Excavation of soils that contribute to Exposure Point Concentrations in the top three feet of soil at Walsh Field that are greater than Massachusetts cleanup standards;
- Temporary stockpiling and stockpile management of excavated soil;
- Treatment of excavated soil (e.g., metals fixation) before being transported to an off-site facility if chemical analysis indicates that treatment is required;
- Off-site re-use (i.e., use as daily cover, shaping, and/or grading at a landfill) and/or disposal (i.e., within a landfill); and
- Backfilling of the excavated soil areas with fill material confirmed in advance to be free of chemicals. (Fill material is stockpiled at Walsh Field, and additional fill will be purchased if needed.)

How will the community be protected during implementation of the RAM?

During soil excavation, TRC will sample air during the work to ensure protection of people using nearby properties. In addition, soil stockpiles will be placed on and covered by plastic held in place by clean soil or tires to prevent wind from removing the cover. Excavated soil will be transported to the disposal facility in lined and covered trailer dump trucks.

When will the RAM be implemented?

Weather permitting; the RAM will be implemented after November 19, 2009 in all locations requiring soil removal except the Varsity Field. That portion of the RAM will be implemented at the Varsity Field during warmer weather in 2010 to allow for proper restoration of the playing surface.

Will more work be required at Walsh Field after the RAM is complete?

No. However, after the RAM is complete, the City will place an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) on the Walsh Field property to prevent exposure to chemicals that remain in soil deeper than three feet below the ground surface. Implementation of the RAM and AUL will result in achieving a condition of no significant risk and a Class A Response Action Outcome (RAO) as defined in Massachusetts regulations. Specifically:

- “No significant risk” is a level of risk that requires no further action to address the chemicals.
- A "Class A RAO" indicates that remedial actions taken at the site have resulted in a permanent solution, which in turn means that chemicals have been sufficiently controlled so that a condition of no significant risk to health, safety, public welfare, and the environment has been achieved.

Participating Contractors

- TRC Environmental Corporation will provide planning, oversight, and Licensed Site Professional (LSP) services, as well as environmental field monitoring (e.g., dust).
- David W. White (DWW) will provide excavation, soil stockpiling, and site restoration services.
- Triumvirate Environmental, Incorporated (TEI) will provide soil treatment and contaminated soil transportation services. TEI will also provide options for off-site contaminated soil management.

What if I have more questions about the RAM Plan?

For additional information, please refer to TRC’s October 2009 RAM Plan, which is available at the City’s website (<http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/McCoy/2009/L2009-290.pdf>). A hardcopy is available for review by appointment by contacting the City’s Environmental Stewardship Department at (508)991-6188. You also can contact:

- Scott Alfonse, City of New Bedford Environmental Stewardship Department, at (508) 991-6188 or email scott.alfonse@newbedford-ma.gov
- Molly Cote, MassDEP at (508) 946-2792 or email molly.cote@state.ma.us