ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD'S INVESTIGATION AND CLEANUP OF WALSH FIELD

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD/TRC, JUNE 2010

This fact sheet describes what has been done to determine that it is safe for people to use Walsh Field, current conditions, and work planned for the summer of 2010. Terms in bold are defined in the Glossary of Terms at the end of the Fact Sheet.

It is safe for people to use Walsh Field.

The City's previous environmental consultant, BETA Group Inc. (BETA), and its current environmental consultant, TRC Environmental (TRC), collected soil samples at Walsh Field from 2006 through 2009. The sampling results identified several areas of impacted soils in surface soil and soil deeper than one foot where soil was removed and brought to an appropriate disposal facility. The soil was replaced with clean backfill.

Current conditions

Surface Soil (one foot or less). TRC determined that the potential exposures to surface soil (soil that is not beneath pavement or clean fill material) for students, staff, and visitors who use the field do not pose a significant risk, as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). People using the field might contact the surface layer of soil if it sticks to their skin as a result of direct contact or excessive dust, enters the air as dust and is inhaled, or is eaten. TRC considered the degree to which people using the field could potentially be exposed to chemicals in surface soil in reaching its determination of no significant risk.

Soil Deeper than one foot. Samples from soils more than one foot below the ground surface and beneath clean fill material at the Varsity Baseball Field showed detections of **arsenic** and other metals and **polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)** at levels above MassDEP clean-up standards. People would not contact this soil unless an extensive excavation occurred as part of a future redevelopment and/or maintenance project.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have never been detected above regulatory thresholds in surface soil or soil deeper than one foot at Walsh Field.

The Next Steps

The City anticipates completing response actions to excavate and dispose of soil deeper than one foot at the Varsity baseball field during the summer of 2010. The City will continue to post notice of all investigation reports and response action activities at its website.

For More Information

The full details of response actions that have taken place on the Varsity and Junior Varsity baseball diamonds and the soccer field are available as part of the *Immediate Response Action* reports associated with those areas. Response actions for all portions of the field, including the Varsity, JV, and soccer fields, are discussed in the *Release Abatement Measure Plan* (October 2009) and the *Interim Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment* (July 2009). Details regarding proposed future plans to continue to

ensure the health and safety of people using Walsh Field are discussed in the *Interim Phase III Remedial Action Plan* (July 2009), which is currently under review by MassDEP. All documents are posted on the City's website http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/McCoy/sitemap/sitemap.html under "Walsh Field". If you have additional questions, please contact Cheryl Henlin, City of New Bedford Environmental Stewardship Department, at (508) 991-6188 or email cheryl.henlin@newbedford-ma.gov

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Arsenic – A chemical element which occurs naturally in the environment. Arsenic was historically used for a variety of purposes, including wood preservatives, herbicides (weed killer), pesticides, and medicine.

Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) – A group of over 100 different chemicals formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances like tobacco or charbroiled meat. PAHs are usually found as a mixture containing two or more of these compounds, such as soot. Some PAHs are manufactured. PAHs are found in coal tar, crude oil, creosote, and roofing tar, but a few are used in medicines or to make dyes, plastics, and pesticides or are components of petroleum.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - Mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds. There are no known natural sources of PCBs. Some PCBs can exist as a vapor in air to a limited extent. PCBs have no known smell or taste. PCBs have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they do not burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include: certain building materials, such as caulking, paint, adhesive and fluorescent lighting fixtures; electrical devices containing PCB capacitors and transformers; and hydraulic oils.