



ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET CITY OF NEW BEDFORD'S INVESTIGATION AND CLEANUP OF WALSH FIELD

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD/TRC, AUGUST 2011

This fact sheet describes what the City has done to determine that it is safe for people to use Walsh Field. It describes current conditions, restrictions on activities and uses, completion of remedial actions, and the long-term obligations for keeping it safe for use.

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 hundreds of soil samples at Walsh Field from 2006 through 2009. Several areas of impacted soil were removed, brought to an appropriate disposal facility, and replaced with clean backfill.

The clean-up activities supported the filing of a Class A Response Action Outcome (RAO) site "closure report", which was submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for Walsh Field on June 1, 2011. A Class A RAO means:

- The source material has been reduced through excavation;
- Remaining impacts are controlled by an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL); and
- No further remedial actions are required to maintain a condition of no significant risk.

Current Conditions and Restriction on Activities and Uses

Top 3 feet of soil. TRC determined that the potential exposures to the top 3 feet of accessible 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 MassDEP. 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 3 feet or beneath paving. For soils that are deeper than 3 feet or beneath paving, exposure is prevented by the AUL. The AUL prohibits:

- Residential use;
- Excavations more than 3 feet deep in landscaped areas or areas immediately beneath paved surfaces or building floors without a site-specific evaluation by a Licensed Site Professional (LSP);
- Relocation of any soil from depths greater than 3 feet from the Site to another location within the Site without LSP review and approval; and
- Planting of food crops for human consumption (raised beds are permitted subject to LSP approval).

Long Term Obligations

The effectiveness of the AUL depends on the City meeting the following long-term obligations and conditions:

- Maintaining the physical integrity of all asphalt pavement, concrete pavement, sidewalks, and track surfaces or other paved surfaces;
- Maintaining the physical integrity of all interior building floors;
- Preparing a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for activities below 3 feet in landscaped areas or immediately beneath paved surfaces/building floors;
- Conducting a site-specific evaluation with a LSP before excavating or disturbing soil/fill below 3 feet and /or below paving and building floors; and
- Preventing the removal of soil from anywhere on the property (the full property is subject to the AUL) to an off-property location without LSP review and approval.

For More Information

The full details of response actions and the site closure for the Walsh Field are discussed in the *Release Abatement Measure Plan Completion Report* (February 2011) and the *Response Action Outcome Statement* (June 2011). 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.