



MEMO

To: The Burlington Community
From: Jesse Bridges, BPRW Director & Harbor Master
Date: September 11, 2015
Re: Status Update on Stockpiled Soils at Leddy Park

The following provides an update on the progress of the stockpiled soils in the lower Leddy Park parking lot and describes upcoming testing that will be taking place 9/14/15 through 9/18/2015. The public can expect to see several trucks parked near the stockpiles, technicians actively sampling the soil, a small excavator being used to construct a ramp, a drill rig advancing cores on the top ridge of the pile and along the Waterfront Bike Path, and technicians fixing any damage to the plastic cover. If any unusual activity is witnessed (other than that described in this memo), please contact BPRW at (802) 864-0123.

RECENT ACTION

In July 2015, Burlington Parks Recreation & Waterfront (BPRW) hired The Johnson Company, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, who was specifically tasked with further securing and maintaining the soil stockpiles that had already been staged at Leddy Park. BPRW's primary objective was to isolate the contents pile from the public and significantly reduce the potential for soil migration. As of July 30, 2015, the pile was covered with an additional layer of thick plastic (black plastic used to deter vegetative growth), secured with UV-resistant sand bags, and surrounded by hay bales. BPRW proactively determined that the orange plastic fencing used to limit access to the stockpile area should be replaced, and on August 28, 2015 the plastic fence was removed and a rigid metal chain-link fence was installed around the stockpile area. Since July 30, 2015 weekly inspections and maintenance have been performed and weekly reports are submitted to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) within 24-hours of the inspection. These inspections will continue for as long as the pile remains at Leddy Park.

UPCOMING SOIL CHARACTERIZATION

In order to better characterize the soil and determine the most appropriate disposal and/or reuse options for the four soil stockpiles currently staged at Leddy Park (Stockpile A = 2,450 cubic yards [CY], Stockpile B = 20 CY, Stockpile C = 20 CY, and Stockpile D = 10 CY), additional soil sampling has been requested by VT DEC and EPA. Previous data suggests that contaminant concentrations exceed some of the applicable standards for residential soils; however, it should be noted that it is not uncommon for urban fill across Vermont to have one or more exceedances of these standards. The limited data also suggests that the largest pile (Stockpile A), appears to be least impacted; however, due to insufficient number of samples and the heterogeneity of soil, the data that currently exists is not considered fully representative of the pile. Therefore, BPRW has retained the services of The Johnson Company, Inc. to implement a sampling plan that will satisfy what is being requested by VT DEC and EPA.

The sampling plan strategically breaks the stockpiles into individual segments and prescribes each segment to be discretely sampled in order to generate a representative data set. A total of 114 soil samples will be collected from the four stockpiles. Each of the 114 samples will analyzed for



polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), 57 will be analyzed for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and 57 will also be analyzed for lead. Hand augers will be used to advance borings through the plastic into the sides of the piles and a drill rig will be used to advance borings to the desired sample depth within the piles. A ramp will be built to allow safe access up the steep slopes of Stockpile A. Upon completion of the sampling any holes in the plastic will be repaired or the plastic will be replaced. One sediment sample will also be collected from a drainage ditch located west of the stockpiles and analyzed for PCBs. Prior to 1970, the lower parking lot hosted an animal rendering company and fertilizer plant. Therefore, should contaminants of concern be identified in the sediment sample collected from the drainage ditch, these contaminants may not have originated from the stockpiled soil, but instead may be the result of the industrialized past associated with the property.

In order to better understand the nature and extent of the potential soil contamination in the area from which these piles were generated (Waterfront Park Bike Path Rehabilitation immediately east of the boat launch) additional soil sampling will be performed in the park on a 10 ft. x 10 ft. grid pattern. Using a small drill rig, a total of 36 borings will be advanced to a depth of approximately 4 ft. and two soil samples will be collected from each boring, for a total of 72 additional soil samples from this area. Each of the 72 samples will be analyzed for PCBs and four will be analyzed for PAHs. Additionally, two monitoring wells will be installed in this area and groundwater samples will be collected and analyzed for PCBs to confirm groundwater has not been adversely impacted. Soil sampling is scheduled to take place September 14 - September 19, 2015 and data should be available by early October 2015.

BPRW and VT DEC appreciate the public concern about the stockpiled soil in the lower Leddy Park parking lot and are actively working to determine the most pragmatic solution to responsibly dispose and/or reuse these soils in a manner which mitigates risk to human health and the environment, while considering the cost implications on the City. On Tuesday, September 22 at 6pm, BPRW and VT DEC will host a community conversation on the Bike Path Rehabilitation soils that are temporarily being stockpiled. While additional testing of the stockpile is currently underway, the results will not be available in time for this meeting. That said, both the City and VT DEC are committed to scheduling a second meeting (date TBD) to review the findings and present the soil disposal and/or reuse options once the results are available. In the meantime, the September 22nd meeting will provide a forum for community questions and comments. The meeting details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Leddy Park in the Leddy Arena Community Room
Topic: Stockpiled Soils at Leddy Park Q&A