

## **NEWHALL REMEDIATION PROJECT PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION PLAN**

### **I. Purpose:**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed this Public Outreach and Communication Plan to inform the Hamden community, especially the residents of the Newhall Street Neighborhood, on steps that will be taken to remediate (clean up) waste fill and restore pre-existing features in the Newhall Street Neighborhood Remediation Project area.

This Public Outreach and Communication Plan has been developed in accordance with DEP's obligations under Paragraph B.4 of Consent Order No. SRD-128. This Plan has been updated from prior Public Involvement Plans for the site, which had focused on communication during the investigative phase of the project, and is now designed to address outreach and communication related to the remediation and restoration phase starting in 2010. The implementation of the remedy involves the removal of waste fill, mostly from residential, or "non-public" properties, and restoration of pre-existing features. This Plan also applies to the remediation of public properties including Mill Rock Park, Rochford Field, and the former Hamden Middle School. Currently, remediation of the non-public properties is scheduled on a block-by-block basis and is estimated to take 3 to 5 years once it begins.

### **II. Principles:**

Underlying all strategies and actions is the understanding that the residents and property owners in the Newhall Street Neighborhood have the right to know about issues that affect their health and welfare and plans to remove and/or make harmless existing pollution conditions in their neighborhood. This Public Outreach and Communication Plan has been developed with the following principles:

- Access to information: A record of public meetings and final technical documents will be placed in locations available to the community and the project website.
- Clarity: Scientific information and regulatory procedures will be presented in terms understandable to the public.
- Responsiveness: Questions asked by the public will be answered in a timely manner.
- Multi-level communication: A variety of methods will be used to communicate with the public. Newsletters, direct mail, community meetings, an informational video, a project website, and the news media will be employed. Project staff will be accessible by telephone, mail, community office, e-mail and one-on-one meetings, as necessary.
- Timeliness: The public will receive adequate notice of meetings and remediation activities in the neighborhood, and meetings will be scheduled at times and places that are convenient to the community.

- **Coordination:** Good communication among all concerned agencies, responsible parties, and community organizations will be critical to the success of the process.

### III. Public Outreach and Communication Plan Elements:

This Public Outreach and Communication Plan has been developed so that project contacts are accessible to the public, information is shared in a complete and understandable manner, and project staff are responsive to public comments and concerns. The plan provides general methods of public communication and participation as well as targeted communication and outreach when cleanup of individual properties begins.

#### A. *On-going communication*

1. **One-on-One Meetings:** Project staff will meet by telephone or in person with residents and property owners in the Newhall neighborhood to answer questions, respond to concerns and provide information as necessary.
2. **Block Meetings:** Project staff may coordinate block meetings with residents and property owners as needed prior to the start of cleanup on each residential block for the purpose of ensuring awareness, discussing construction logistics and answering questions.
3. **Public Meetings/Information Sessions:** DEP will organize and conduct public meetings and/or information sessions that are linked to significant project milestones. The meetings will provide an opportunity for the community to learn about and comment on the status of the project.
4. **Document Review:** A repository of documents on the project will be maintained at the Town of Hamden's central library (Miller Library) and the Newhall Community Office. The project's website, [www.newhallinfo.org](http://www.newhallinfo.org), will also post project documents.
5. **Document Summaries:** To make the content of technical documents understandable to the public, DEP will summarize key points in meaningful terms to the general public. Summaries will be posted with the relevant document on the project website and at the document repositories.
6. **Newsletters, Update Bulletins, Flyers, Press Releases:** DEP will prepare and mail project updates describing the activities taking place on the project. DEP anticipates publishing newsletters periodically to update the residents on the project status, as necessary. Flyers and construction update bulletins will be distributed within the Newhall neighborhood to inform residents of cleanup activities as needed. In addition, press releases announcing relevant project updates (i.e., construction logistics, new traffic patterns) will be distributed to local media outlets when appropriate to inform the broader public about project activities.
7. **Project Website:** A website, [www.newhallinfo.org](http://www.newhallinfo.org), has been developed to provide comprehensive information and the latest developments on the project. When construction activities associated with the cleanup begin, the website provides information on these activities and will be updated on a periodic basis.
8. **Video:** DEP has produced, in cooperation with the CT Department of Public Health and the Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry, a 9-minute DVD that explains

why it is necessary to remove waste fill from the Newhall neighborhood and how the cleanup will be done. The DVD can be viewed on a television or computer and has been distributed to each property owner within the Consent Order area as well as to elected and Town officials. Additionally, copies will be distributed to new property owners and residents within the Newhall neighborhood. The video can also be accessed on the project website (<http://www.newhallinfo.org/html-cleanup/video.html>).

9. **Mailing List:** DEP will maintain a mailing list of all property owners within and immediately surrounding the project site, and interested parties including, but not limited to, government officials and members of the Hamden community. The list will be used to distribute newsletters, fact sheets, notice of meetings and other project mailings. As new owners and residents move into the neighborhood, DEP will update the list.
10. **Community Office:** The Community Office will be established at the former Hamden Middle School during the 2010 construction season. This office will provide a place for the Newhall community to obtain information on the project during the construction season. The office will have project documents, maps, project personnel contact information, and up-to-date information on the status of the project. Once the office has been established, office hours will be posted.
11. **Public Participation Coordinator:** DEP has retained a coordinator who will assist the DEP in carrying out the project's public outreach and communication plan. The coordinator will organize public meetings, produce newsletters and summaries of project documents, maintain project mailing lists, and manage the project website and public information repositories.
12. **Community Resource Liaison:** With DEP financial support, the Town of Hamden/Hamden Economic Development Corporation has retained a Community Resource Liaison for the duration of this project, which will serve as a community liaison for the neighborhood and will help disseminate information and respond to inquiries from the public.

***B. Targeted Communication During Cleanup of Non-Public Properties (Mostly Residential Portion of the Site)***

Clear communication leading up to the start (summer 2010) of remediation and during active construction will be vital to the success of the cleanup project. Olin Corporation and its contractors, with oversight from DEP, will communicate about cleanup activities that affect individual property owners and the surrounding neighborhood in a timely manner. The following is a summary of communication required at each step in the remediation of the residential properties.

1. **Property Inventories:** Olin and its contractors will need to inspect each property to accurately map and describe features that currently exist on the property so they can be replaced. Examples of features include: trees and shrubs, fences, sheds, patios, etc. For many properties, Olin already has a written access agreement in effect to do the inspection. In these cases, Olin will call the property owner to schedule an inspection at a time agreeable to the property owner. If an access agreement is not currently in effect, Olin will contact the property to obtain an agreement.

2. Cleanup Plan for Each Property: Olin will mail a Property-Specific Remedial Action Plan (PSRAP) to each property owner for review that will detail what is involved in removing fill and restoring landscape features to the individual property once the cleanup is done. The Property-Specific Remedial Action Plan mailing will include the proposed access agreement that allows Olin and its contractors to perform the remediation, information regarding pre-construction activities, the anticipated remedial activities on the parcel, property restoration plans, and relocation plans, if necessary and appropriate. The property owner is encouraged to ask questions of both Olin and DEP regarding aspects of the Property-Specific Remedial Action Plan and access agreement. The DEP will review and approve each Property-Specific Remedial Action Plan as it pertains to the extent of excavation needed on each property.
3. Construction Start Notification: Olin and its contractors will provide notification to owners of properties scheduled for remediation in advance of the start date and will address any questions and concerns of the property owners and/or tenants. In addition, DEP or other project staff will provide notification to all property owners and residents of each block, including those property owners where remediation is not required, prior to the start of construction to notify of them of remediation activities and the general schedules of start and finish dates, and to address any questions and concerns. This notification may occur in the form of visits, calls or bulletins.
4. One-on-One Pre-Construction Meetings: After Olin meets with a property owner and access is granted, Olin and its contractors will schedule a meeting with each property owner (and tenants) where remediation is required just before construction at their property begins, to review the construction activities and schedule, and to address any further concerns and questions.

5. Contacts During Construction:

**Newhall Remediation Project  
Primary Construction Contacts List**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Availability</b>
Town of Hamden/ HEDC	Richard Pearce, Community Resource Liaison	203-248-3677	rpearce@evolutionllc.com	Office hours to be established
Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Ray Frigon, Jr.	860-424-3797 (off.) 860-538-5758 (cell)	Raymond.frigon@ct.gov	Mon-Fri
	Shannon Pociu	860-424-3546	Shannon.pociu@ct.gov	Mon, Wed, Thurs
	Toll-Free number	1-800-548-8660		
Dept. of Public Health (DPH)	Meg Harvey	860-509-7748	Margaret.harvey@ct.gov	Tues-Fri
Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD)	Leslie Balch Alexis Rinaldi	203-248-4528	lbalch@qvhd.org arinaldi@qvhd.org	Mon-Fri

6. Flyers: DEP will issue informational flyers to the affected residents and broader neighborhood on an as-needed basis. Flyers may have information about items such as blocks being worked on, utility issues, new street traffic patterns or closures, bus and pedestrian routes, garbage pick-up, etc. The Community Resource Liaison may assist in the development and distribution of the flyers.
7. Newsletters and/or Bulletins: Olin and its contractors and the Community Resource Liaison will provide up-to-date construction and logistical information to DEP for inclusion in periodic newsletters and/or bulletins to be distributed to the neighborhood. With construction scheduled to begin in summer 2010, newsletters and/or bulletins will be planned prior to the start of construction, and as necessary during the summer and fall to provide updates on the project and construction status.
8. Press releases: Olin and its contractors and the Community Resource Liaison will provide up-to-date construction and logistical information to DEP for inclusion in periodic press releases. DEP will issue press releases prior to the start of construction of the cleanup remedy in the Newhall Neighborhood. Press releases will be also issued by DEP at significant project milestones.

9. Fact Sheets: Olin and its contractors and the Community Resource Liaison will provide DEP with information to include in fact sheets on different topics of concern to residents during the remedy construction (dust control, temporary relocation process, traffic management, noise control, etc.) as well as hours of operation and project contacts.
10. Project Website: DEP will maintain a website, [www.newhallinfo.org](http://www.newhallinfo.org), to focus on the remediation phase of the project. Olin and its contractors and the Community Resource Liaison will provide up-to-date construction and logistical information to DEP for posting on the website. It is intended that the website remain current with the remedial construction planned for each week (“What’s happening now/this week?”). The website will include a quick reference list of project contacts, FAQs, and fact sheets.
11. Newhall Remediation Project Office: DEP will support a project office located at the former Hamden Middle School. The purpose of the office is to provide a place for local residents to find out information about the remediation project and to ask questions about the cleanup project. A repository of important project documents will also be placed in the office for public review. Hours will be posted at the office location, in newsletters and on the project website.

***C. Communication During Cleanup of Public Properties (Former Hamden Middle School and Town Parks)***

Prior to the start of any construction for the cleanup of the public properties, the public will be notified by one or more of the following: newsletter, flyers, press releases, and website updates. The community will be informed about issues surrounding the remedial construction activities, such as traffic from construction vehicles, work hours, dust control and air monitoring.

Former Hamden Middle School, Rochford Field, and Mill Rock Park

While work is progressing on the non-public properties, there will be on-going planning and design for remediation of the public properties. As work approaches, the same notification procedures outlined in earlier sections of this Plan will be used to communicate remedial activities to the public. This includes the use of the project website, flyers, newsletters, and meetings, as necessary and appropriate.

The Town is continuing to evaluate reuse plans for the former Hamden Middle School, and additional remedial plans for this portion of the site will be developed as the project moves forward.

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has submitted two focused remedial action plans for the volatile organic compound (VOC) source area and the PCB release area located near the tennis courts west of the former Hamden Middle School. These documents are available for public review and comment during DEP’s review and approval process at the project document repositories and on the project website.

Following the completion of the Town of Hamden's reuse planning process for Rochford Field and Mill Rock Park, the Town will submit to DEP for approval, detailed Remedial Action Plans for the cleanup of these portions of the site. When completed, the remedial action plans will be available for public review at the document repositories and on the project website.

#### **IV. Roles and Responsibilities:**

##### **Department of Environmental Protection**

DEP has two roles. As a government agency that regulates environmental standards, it is responsible for overseeing the investigation and remediation of the site. A second role is to make sure that the public is informed about the project and that community concerns are identified and taken into consideration throughout the project. Therefore, DEP will be responsible for:

1. Maintaining a public involvement coordinator to assist DEP in implementing this plan.
2. Organizing and holding public meetings and information sessions.
3. Preparing summary documents and project updates.
4. Maintaining project mailing lists of all interested members of the community.
5. Maintaining the public information repositories.
6. Maintaining the internet website, [www.newhallinfo.org](http://www.newhallinfo.org).
7. Assisting in the development of educational outreach opportunities for the public related to ongoing work at the site.
8. Providing adequate prior notice of all public meetings.
9. Responding to all written comments submitted to DEP directly, and working with the responsible parties and their technical consultants to answer technical questions submitted.
10. Ensuring the investigation and remediation activities are conducted in a protective manner compliant with the Remediation Standard Regulations, the October 2007 Remedy Selection Plan and all approved remediation plans for the project.

##### **Olin Corporation, Town of Hamden, and South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (Respondents)**

It is each Respondent's responsibility to complete the investigation of a portion of the site, evaluate remedial alternatives, propose a remedial action plan and, after the DEP has approved a plan, implement a remedy for each Respondent's portion of the site. Each Respondent will therefore:

1. Attend and participate in public meetings as necessary.
2. At the request of DEP, attend meetings to answer specific questions or discuss specific issues about the project.
3. Upon DEP's request, submit to DEP for prior review all communications to Newhall residents that has information concerning testing results and clean-up plans.

4. Provide technical and/or logistical information to DEP in a timely fashion as it relates to implementation of the remedy at the site.
5. Provide comments to DEP on all relevant and appropriate steps in the investigation and remediation Process for the entire site.
6. At the request of DEP, respond in writing to specific questions or comments from the public regarding each Respondent's portion of the project.
7. Provide sufficient copies of the documents required by the Consent Order for the public information repositories, state and local health departments and technical consultants associated with the project as deemed necessary by DEP.
8. Provide staff to act as point(s) of contact during remediation phase.

#### **V. Revisions to the Public Outreach and Communication Plan:**

The DEP will assess the effectiveness of the Public Outreach and Communication Plan and continue to make changes that will improve it.

#### **VI. Summary**

The DEP's commitment to public outreach includes drawing upon other resources available to provide support on peripheral aspects of the project. This support includes the DEP's Environmental Equity Program and outside organizations such as the State Department of Public Health (DPH), the Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD), the State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), and Hamden Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) to provide assistance with issues such as public health, structural evaluation, and funding to address structural issues.

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