

Newhall Remediation Project

A newsletter provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Test Results In, Cleanup Options Explored

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Final Reports Submitted..... 3

Community Reaction 3

Save the Date 4

This publication is the sixth issue of a quarterly newsletter that is published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to inform the public about what's happening to examine and clean up pollution in the Newhall area of Hamden.

The DEP has been working since late 2000 to understand the full extent of contamination problems caused by dumping industrial and household wastes 50-100 years ago.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has received the final report from Olin Corporation documenting the results of its environmental study of residential properties in the Newhall Remediation Project area.

Olin's consultant, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., presented findings of its investigation and recommendations for cleanup and answered questions at a public meeting on May 17 at the Keefe Center.

The final report summarized what Olin Corporation found after carrying out its 2004 DEP-approved Supplemental Investigation Work Plan. Their investigation focused only on residential properties within the Newhall Remediation Project Consent Order boundary. Studies on town-owned properties, the Middle School and parks, were done by consultants working for other responsible parties.

The Olin report includes results from previous studies as well as recent testing of soil and groundwater in the Newhall neighborhood. The report described exactly where the fill is located, how deep it is and what chemicals are found in it.

The report also evaluated the condition of groundwater and if there were impacts to surface water in the study area.

How much testing was done?

A total of 289 properties out of 303 in the study area were inspected or tested.

Soil borings were taken and used to determine the locations, approximate boundaries and depths of fill materials (in contrast to areas with natural soils). Over 700 deep soil borings were drilled and 511 samples were tested for contaminants.

In addition, 162 properties were inspected for bare soil spots. Of the 86 properties where bare spots were found, 167 samples were tested for contaminants.

Thirty-three wells (29 new monitoring wells and 4 existing wells) were sampled as part of the groundwater investigation.

What Contaminants Were Tested For?

The contaminants tested for in the soil and groundwater samples were:

- Lead and arsenic
- Other metals
- Extractable Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (ETPH)
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs)
- Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

The study compared the concentrations of the contaminants found in the soil and water samples to several different state standards. The standards identify the concentrations of substances that could be potentially harmful to people who come into contact with them. The standards were developed to protect people's health and the environment.

What Did They Find?

Most fill was found at properties above former landfill areas identified during previous testing.

Fill was also found to have been disposed at other locations throughout the neigh-

FINDINGS of the *Supplemental Investigation Report and Remedial Action Plan Non-Public Properties Study Area, Hamden, Connecticut* prepared by Olin's consultant, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

- About 220 of 303 properties have fill present
- Some 80 properties have NO FILL
- About 130 properties have fill present only at depths less than four feet
- About 90 properties have fill present at depths more than four feet
- Fill areas cover 32 acres and total 308,500 cubic yards (20,750 truckloads)

borhood. This fill was generally no more than 2 feet deep.

About 80 properties had no fill that would require cleanup.

The report includes maps showing the extent and depths of fill. Two hundred and twenty (220) properties were found to have fill material, ranging from shallow amounts to 20 feet deep. Fill covers approximately 32 acres and totals about 308,500 cubic yards (equivalent to 20,750 truckloads).

The levels of contaminants found were reported for each sample location, so the report includes many pages of scientific testing data. Levels of contaminants measured in the fill samples indicate that any portion of fill

has the potential to exceed state remediation standards. The primary contaminants requiring clean-up efforts include arsenic, lead, PAHs and ETPH (*see contamination section of project website - www.newhallinfo.org/contamination.html.*)

Shallow and deeper groundwater flow in the study area does not necessarily follow the ground surface contours. Groundwater flow was found to be westward near Prospect Hill, southwestward near St. Mary's, Butler, Goodrich and Morse Streets and southward in the Augur Street area. Groundwater quality was found to be slightly degraded.

What Will Be Done To Clean Up the Properties?

Olin evaluated six potential remediation alternatives along with costs and schedules.

These alternatives will need to be evaluated by DEP and will be discussed with the community before any decisions are made. DEP will have the final word on what cleanup options are chosen.

The two alternatives recommended by Olin are linked to how deep the fill is.

Olin recommended removing and replacing fill at 131 properties where fill is less than 4 feet below the ground surface. This remedy allows for restoration of the property with no restrictions for future use of the land.

For 90 properties with fill depths greater than 4 feet

below the ground surface Olin also recommended removing and replacing the top four feet of fill material. However, the remaining fill below 4 feet would remain. This remedy would require a variance that could be allowed by DEP's regulations and placement of an Environmental Land Use Restriction on land records to prohibit any disturbance of fill at depths below 4 feet.

Four other alternatives for properties with deeper levels of fill were reviewed but not recommended for any properties.

Two scenarios included removing the top 2 feet of fill and then either paving the ground so people can't come into contact with the fill or building a special "cap" that would serve two purposes: to prevent contact with the fill and prevent rainwater from getting into the ground.

Another looked at buying and demolishing all 90 homes and constructing a special "cap" as described above. These 3 alternatives would also require placement of an Environmental Land Use Restriction on land records to prohibit any disturbance of the fill or the cap.

Finally, Olin's report looked at buying and demolishing all 90 homes and either constructing a cap or removing and disposing of all the fill material, and replacement with clean fill.

Olin did not prefer any of these four alternatives.

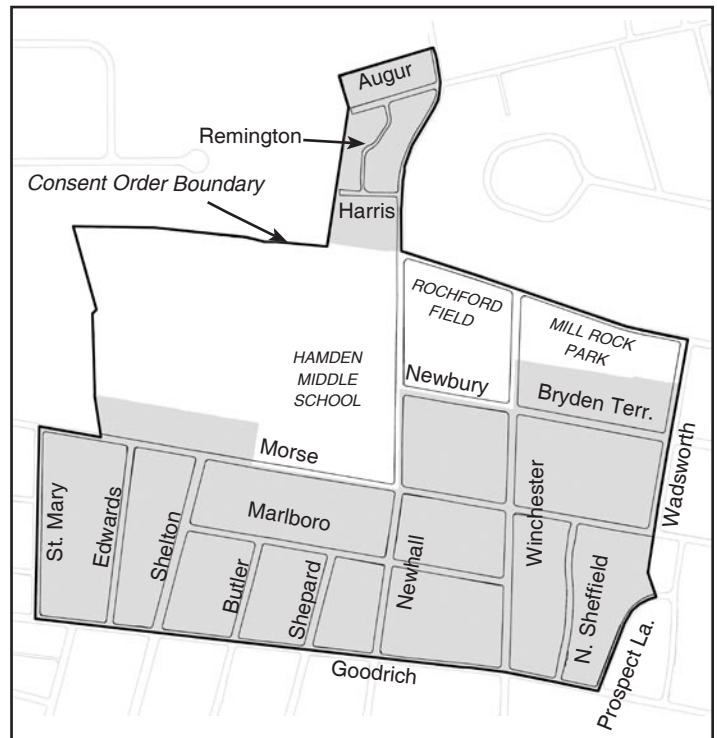
Where will the waste fill go?

Olin looked at moving fill from residential areas to the field behind Hamden Middle School and disposing of the fill at an out-of-state landfill. The Consent Order allowed Olin to look at the Middle School grounds option, as long as the amount of fill placed behind the Middle School would not be higher than the backyards of adjacent homes on Morse Street.

While Olin’s report recommended that the fill be placed at the Middle School and then covered, **DEP has not made a final decision on this proposal** and will not do so until it hears from the public.

DEP is now reviewing Olin’s investigation report and suggested alternatives for the cleanup. DEP’s review of reports for the Middle School and parks is also beginning. Public meetings will be held to share the results of all investigations with the public over the next month. On-going dialogue with the public about the proposed cleanup alternatives for the entire site (residential areas, school, and parks) will continue through the summer.

DEP will not make any final decisions on the cleanup until it hears from the public and the Newhall Advisory Committee on the proposals presented for clean up of all three parts of the site.



**Residential Testing Area (grey shaded area)
Newhall Remediation Project
Hamden Connecticut**

Community Reacts to Report

Members of the Newhall Advisory Committee (NAC) raised many questions at a presentation made by Olin at its April committee meeting.



Members of the NAC were concerned about placing waste from the residential area of the neighborhood at the Hamden Middle School, compensation for lost property values and health risks they may face as buried fill is disturbed and removed from properties.

Final Reports on Investigations Submitted, Under Review

Olin Corporation and the Regional Water Authority submitted Final Reports to DEP in March detailing the results of testing in residential areas and at the Hamden Middle School. The Town of Hamden submitted its Final Report on Rochford Field and Mill Rock Park at the end of April. The DEP has been reviewing the lengthy reports and has presented the findings of the residential investigation at the public meeting in May. The results of testing at the school and parks will be presented at the public meeting June 21.

Reports will be available for the public to review at four document repositories and the project website, www.newhallinfo.org. Copies can be read at the Miller and Whitneyville Libraries as well as by appointment at the project’s community office at the Keefe Center (203-498-0190) and at the Department of Environmental Protection (860-424-3456), 79 Elm Street, Hartford. DEP will welcome comments from the public.



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We're on the web!
www.newhallinfo.org

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Save the Date - June 21!

The Department of Environmental Protection is holding a series of public meetings to discuss the results of the investigation of contamination in the Newhall neighborhood. The public can learn about what the testing found and what cleanup options may be considered.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 21** to present the findings of the investigation of Town properties – **Hamden Middle School, Mill Rock Park, Rochford**

Field and the Winchester Avenue Sewer Pump Station.

The meeting will be held at the **Keefe Community Center**, on Dixwell Avenue between Pine and George Streets, from **6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** An informal open house will precede both meetings beginning at **6:00 p.m.** Reports on public meetings will be posted on the project website, www.newhallinfo.org.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection will publish this newsletter on a quarterly basis. If you would like to be on the mailing list or have suggestions for topics in future issues, please contact Jill Barrett, (860) 570-0740, jbarrett@fhiplan.com



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