

# Newhall Remediation Project

A newsletter provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

## Newhall Residents Can Rely On Testing Results

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Newhall Advisory Committee.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Town Parks Closed for Testing .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Testing Results at Next Public Meeting .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Contact Information.....</i>	<i>4</i>

*This publication is the fourth issue of a quarterly newsletter that will be 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.*

### Is The Fox Guarding The Hen House?

That is the question that DEP is often asked by residents in the Newhall neighborhood when people learn Olin Corporation is paying for both the testing and the cleanup of contamination on private properties. Can the results of the extensive testing that has gone on throughout the summer be believed? Is it possible to fudge the findings of the samples taken from private yards and public lands?

Not likely and this is why:

### Who handles samples?

In the Newhall project, teams of environmental professionals have been hired to collect soil and water samples. But they do not work alone.

DEP hires its own environmental consultant to randomly take what are called "split samples", or a second sample from the same sampling location taken by Olin's consultant when testing at private properties. The two sets of samples are sent to different laboratories for analysis. If the results are similar, then DEP has confidence in the testing.

### Independent labs

The laboratories used to evaluate samples are independent from the consultants collecting the samples. Laboratories must be certified by the state Department of Public Health and follow established rules when handling

and testing soil and groundwater samples. Labs are subject to audit by the health department to make sure proper procedures are followed.

If a lab doesn't follow proper procedures, the health department will revoke the lab's certification.

### Could samples be switched?

This would be hard to do and not be found out.

When a soil sample is taken from the ground, it has its own character. It is described by color, texture and in the case of the Newhall project, by fill materials that can be identified. Soil scientists have developed a detailed way to classify soils that is used by environmental consultants. Soil texture can be broken down

*continued on page 2*



*Examining a soil sample at Hamden Middle School*

“...it would be practically impossible to submit a sample, known to be clean, in place of a contaminated sample from another location...”

into different types that fall within three general classes – sand, silt and clay. Most soils have a mixture of the three classes.

Much is already known about the character of the soil in Newhall. Natural soil has been broadly classified and registered by the federal government’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Geological Survey. Historical records have identified areas where wetlands were filled. Previous testing in the neighborhood by DEP, the federal

taminated sample from another location that would exactly resemble the kind of fill DEP knows is in the study area.”

Also, when the time comes for cleanup, additional samples are taken on site to make sure the cleanup is complete. If the previous soil sample was switched and doesn’t match what’s found on site at the time of the cleanup, it would be discovered at this time.

Cleanup will occur under the watchful eye of DEP.

**Why use private consultants?**

Beginning in the 1960s the Connecticut state legislature has passed laws to cleanup polluted water and soil.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the state agency charged with overseeing cleanup of pollution, can identify parties (city or towns, private companies, individuals and landowners) responsible for contamination and order them to come up with a remedy and pay for it. This process of ordering responsible parties to clean up pollution was set up to save taxpayers’ money while maintaining oversight by the State.

Consultants working for the Newhall Remediation site have been licensed by DEP’s Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) program. To qualify

for a license, individuals need several years of work experience in the field and have to pass an exam administered by a state board and overseen by DEP. People who become licensed must agree to follow industry standards and a code of ethics when performing work.

Ken Cichon, a consultant from Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. hired by Olin says, “The participants to the investigation and remedy have little to gain by “fudging” the results. With so many checks and balances in place, falsifying information would certainly be discovered. Doing the right thing is in everyone’s interest.”



Recording information on soil sample

Environmental Protection Agency, the Town of Hamden and others has established a record of soil and fill materials.

Given what is already known about the soil and fill in the Newhall neighborhood, DEP’s consultant, Dave Scotti of Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc., has said “it would be practically impossible to submit a sample, known to be clean, in place of a con-



Looking at fill samples from test pit

**Mill Rock Park, Rochford Field Temporarily Closed for Testing**

Mill Rock Park and Rochford Field will be closed for testing for one month beginning in mid-October.

The Town of Hamden's work plan to investigate soil and groundwater contamination at Mill Rock Park, Rochford Field and the Town's sewer Pump Station on Winchester Avenue was approved by DEP October 14, 2004. The Town's consultants, Haley and Aldrich, Inc., were scheduled to begin work immediately.

Mill Rock Park was closed beginning October 18 and Rochford Field was scheduled to be closed beginning November 3. The area where work is done will be fenced off from the public. Work was scheduled to avoid interfering with organized sports activities as much as possible.

Both parks are expected to be reopened by Thanksgiving.

**Newhall Advisory Committee is Being Formed**

For the last two months DEP has been working with Newhall residents to form the **Newhall Advisory Committee (NAC)**, a group that will advise DEP on options for cleaning up contamination in the Newhall neighborhood.

Responding to community concerns that affected residents have a strong voice on the new committee, DEP has been meeting with Newhall residents almost weekly about how the committee should be structured and what the criteria for members should be. Consensus was reached on membership criteria and how residents will be represented.

The majority of members will be residents who live within the remediation project area (see map). Two members will be residents of the Newhall community but live outside the consent order boundary. DEP, Olin, Regional Water Authority and the local health department will serve as ex-officio members. These members will attend meetings but not participate in making recommendations. The Town of Hamden will be a member of the committee since it is a large property owner in the affected neighborhood.

In the coming weeks DEP will ask other groups - the business community, area churches, elected officials, Hamden Middle School and the Town to appoint a representative(s) to the NAC.

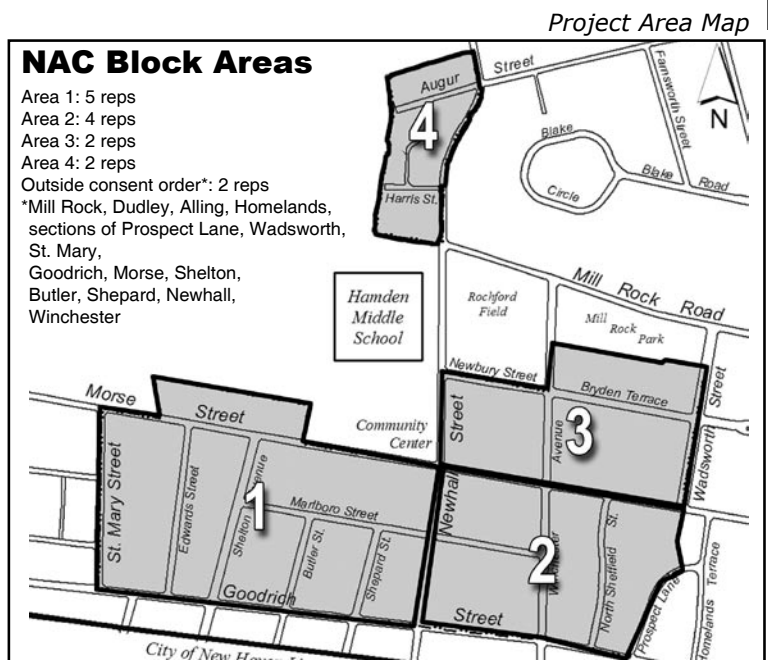
with neighbors and community groups.

Some 50 people have indicated interest in either serving on or learning about the Newhall Advisory Committee.

A meeting to complete the selection process of resident representatives has been scheduled for November 17th at 6:30 PM at the Keefe Community Center. Residents of the Newhall community are invited to attend the selection meeting. People interested in serving on the advisory committee should contact DEP project manager Shannon Pociu, 800-548-8660 or Don Eaton, 787-6500.

*“...The majority of members will be residents who live within the remediation project area ...”*

Some of the criteria for serving on the committee include: ability to attend meetings, understand different perspectives and strive towards consensus; willingness to learn about Newhall site issues and communicate





CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
79 ELM STREET  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.newhallinfo.org](http://www.newhallinfo.org)**

*Contact Info*

Shannon Windisch Pociu  
Remediation Section  
Department of Environmental  
Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
(860) 424-3546  
FAX: (860) 424-4057  
[shannon.pociu@po.state.ct.us](mailto:shannon.pociu@po.state.ct.us)

Newhall Remediation Office  
Keefe Community Center  
11 Pine Street  
Hamden, CT 06514  
(203) 498-0190

Leslie Balch  
Quinnipiack Valley Health Dist.  
1151 Hartford Turnpike  
North Haven, CT 06473  
(203) 248-4528  
FAX: (203) 248-6671  
[LAB@qvhd.org](mailto:LAB@qvhd.org)

Meg Harvey  
Connecticut Department of  
Public Health  
P.O. Box 340308  
410 Capitol Ave. MS#11CHA  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308  
(860) 509-7748  
FAX: (860) 509-7785  
[margaret.harvey@po.state.ct.us](mailto:margaret.harvey@po.state.ct.us)

## **Olin Will Explain Testing Results On November 9th**

Representatives from Olin Corporation and their consultants, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., who conducted visual inspections, soil sampling and groundwater testing during the summer months will provide a summary of their work at a public meeting on November 9 at 6:30-8:30 PM at the Keefe Community Center (off Dixwell Avenue) between Pine and George Streets.

DEP officials, Ray Horn from Olin and Andy Danzig from Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., will be on hand to answer questions individual property owners may have about testing results. Each property owner was mailed the results of testing done on their property.

DEP will also give an update on where the investigation stands in all areas of the remediation project.

## **Next Public Meeting: November 9th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM Keefe Community Center**

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](mailto:jbarrett@fhiplan.com)



*Printed on recycled paper*