EPA
Region 1, New England

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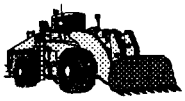

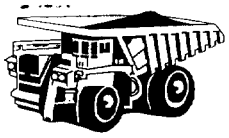

November 14, 1996

Raymark Bulletin #16

Much has happened since our last Bulletin to you in August. Capping is well underway and, as anyone passing the Raymark property will notice, it is being transformed - from a hazardous waste eyesore into a viable parcel of land for future productive use.

We especially appreciate the patience, tolerance and cooperation of our neighbors around the property who have put up with many months of work near their homes and businesses.

Preparing the Raymark Property

Building demolition is complete and much of the work we've detailed in recent Bulletins is also finished. As you know, much was done to compact and stabilize portions of the property to ensure that a firm base for the cap and future shopping mall was provided. Peat areas have been successfully compressed under the weight of large soil piles, while other areas underwent dynamic compaction (a large weight dropped from a crane). Also, all of the contaminated waste brought back to the Raymark property from residences and the Wooster School has been successfully spread, mixed with cement and then compacted.

Cap Construction Begins

We've begun to lay the cap, starting with an 8-inch layer of Cape Cod sand which will form the gas venting layer below the cap. Already 2.5 acres of cap liner material has been laid over the sand. You'll notice the gray bentonite clay liner and black flexible plastic liner being placed in the northeast corner of the property. Since cap installation will be impacted by rain events and the upcoming winter weather, we anticipate continuing this work (including on Sundays) for as long as possible.

8 of the 16 stormwater collection units have been installed - notice the very large black and grey cylinders protruding above ground. They are designed to remove sediment and oil from parking lot runoff water prior to eventual discharge into Ferry Creek.

Please note that the engineering drawings and specifications for cap construction are currently available at the Stratford Public Library - Reference Desk.

Other Cleanup Components

9 of the 12 enhanced soil gas collection wells have been installed in the northeast corner of the property where historical spills have occurred. You may notice the stainless steel pipes protruding above ground. These wells will collect vapors from the soil and from above the groundwater, and the vapors will be treated to make them safe before they are released into the environment. Treatment will occur within a building to be constructed this winter in the far northeast corner of the property.

Five (5) wells to remove the highly-concentrated pockets of solvent have been installed. These wells will pump out the solvent, thereby reducing a source of the groundwater contamination on the property. The solvent will be collected and stored in a large tank, prior to off-site treatment and disposal, within a building to be constructed this winter in the far northwestern corner of the property.

Groundwater Monitoring-Onsite

In December, we expect to begin to install new monitoring wells on the property. These will allow us to collect data about the levels of contamination and movement of groundwater on the property. In addition, the groundwater monitoring wells will allow us to check how effectively the cap is working to reduce the infiltration of surface water and slow the spread of groundwater contamination.

Groundwater Monitoring-Offsite

Over the spring, EPA installed seven (7) groundwater monitoring wells immediately south of the Raymark property. These wells are located both north and south of I-95. These wells were sampled this past summer, and high levels of volatile organic (solvent) contamination was found in three of the wells. These initial findings will assist EPA in future investigations of the groundwater contamination in the area.

Footings for Future Construction

More than 250 steel building support piles have been driven into the ground. Concrete has also been poured into all of these 14-inch diameter pilings, most of which are 75-90 feet deep. These piles will support a small portion of the planned shopping mall.

Air Testing

EPA has continued to monitor the air during all phases of work at the Raymark property. To date, only a few samples have shown levels of dust above the action level. Lead and PCBs have not been identified at levels that would pose a threat to public health. No asbestos has been detected. Recently, EPA has ended sampling for lead and is in the process of working with the health agencies to further reduce the need for any air testing. This is appropriate since capping is well underway and the movement and disturbance of contaminated soils is nearly complete.

Selby Pond Testing

In response to continued interests in potential redevelopment plans for the Shakespeare Theater, EPA has commenced additional testing within Selby Pond and the adjacent wetland areas. This information will determine the nature and extent of the contamination and assist EPA in determining the scope of the cleanup effort required, if any.

Questions or problems should be brought to our attention through the Town Health Department at 385-4090.