



**United States Environmental  
Protection Agency  
New England Office  
1 Congress Street  
Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02203**

### **Raymark Advisory Committee**

The Raymark Advisory Committee (RAC) is the local advisory group organized by the Town of Stratford to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) on the investigation and cleanup of contamination associated with the Raymark Superfund Site.

The Stratford Town Council sought to establish a broad based membership when it established the committee in June, 2000. The RAC members are charged with ensuring that the Superfund cleanup process addresses the many individual concerns within the Town, reconciling the collective interests of all Stratford residents in their advice to the environmental regulatory agencies.

The RAC usually meets monthly at the Stratford Army Engine Plant located at 550 Main Street in Stratford. The public is invited!

Please call the Stratford Health Department at 385-4090 to confirm the date of the next meeting.

# **Raymark Bulletin #42**

**Raymark Superfund Site  
Stratford, Connecticut  
December, 2003**

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## **Sampling at Short Beach Park**

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*This fact sheet provides an overview and some photographs of the environmental sampling currently ongoing at the Short Beach Park property and at the adjacent Stratford Landfill where Raymark waste is suspected to have been disposed. There are no known current health risks for visitors to Short Beach Park.*

### **Background**

Soil sampling over the past year and a half has been conducted by EPA on residential, commercial, and town-owned properties in Stratford that were not fully characterized during past investigations associated with earlier Raymark cleanup activity in the 1990s. As part of this recent effort, a historic review of the use of Short Beach Park and the Stratford Landfill was conducted. This review included a file search of the EPA, CT DEP, and the Town of Stratford files, interviews of persons familiar with the dumping on this property, and an evaluation of historical aerial photographs. The photographs indicated filling began in the early 1950s along the western edge of the Short Beach Park area currently used as a golf course. In the late 1950s, filling began on the south end of the current golf course area and continued to the midpoint of the property (just south of the current baseball diamonds). In the late 1960s, the entire property from the northern end at the Marine Basin to the southern end at Short Beach Road was used as a landfill. Historical information indicates that Raymark waste was disposed of intermittently throughout the property. The final dumping of wastes by Raymark was in 6 waste cells that were constructed along the (then) newly created Dorne Drive. These cells received the final dredge materials from lagoons at the Raymark facility, and were the last areas at Short Beach Park that accepted Raymark waste. The state covered these cells with a geotextile membrane, gravel and fill in 1993. The town recreation department has been careful to protect this cap which serves to contain and stabilize the contaminated soil in place and protect visitors from exposure.

The current investigation will serve to provide a more detailed characterization of the extent of Raymark waste at Short Beach Park and the Stratford Landfill, including how well the waste is covered by soil throughout the park, and help determine whether any waste could potentially impact human health and the environment.

**EPA New England website for past Raymark Bulletins:  
[www.epa.gov/region01/superfund/sites/raymark/bulletin](http://www.epa.gov/region01/superfund/sites/raymark/bulletin)**

### **Are there immediate health concerns at the park?**

There are no known current health risks for people visiting the park since there is no exposure to Raymark waste disposal areas. There is no need to take any special safety precautions while enjoying activities at the park.

### **Isn't there already a protective cap at Short Beach?**

A cover consisting of geotextile fabric and 12 to 18 inches of soil and gravel was constructed in 1993. The cover was further improved in 1994-95 with up to 3 feet of sand, gravel and topsoil. The cap was constructed in an effort to protect public health and to allow the public to access the fields.

The EPA is now returning to the park to do a more comprehensive investigation. EPA is coordinating with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Short Beach Commission to schedule the work in an effort to minimize any inconvenience to the park users and area residents. The work is being conducted now as investigations in other areas throughout Stratford are reaching completion.

### **What is happening now at Short Beach Park?**

Prior to any activity, a sampling plan was proposed which indicated all the areas to be sampled. The plan also includes equipment to be used in each area (small "geoprobe" drill rigs in the park area; larger drill rigs on the landfill), laboratory analysis to be completed, depth assumptions, and suspected contaminants.



Field work began on December 1 when EPA and its contractors arrived to mobilize their equipment at the park. A field trailer serves as the on-site office and contains telephones and other typical

office equipment as well as sampling and safety equipment used by the field crews. There is a supplemental storage shack as well as EPA's mobile laboratory also located in the parking area around the administrative building. Field crews have already begun staking the property using a grid system indicated by small flags which have been located throughout the park.

**Has the actual sampling started and how long will it take?** The first samples were collected from one of the baseball diamonds on Thursday, December 4. Sampling is expected to continue through early February, 2004, progressing through the athletic fields and golf course and ending at the landfill. The schedule is subject to change (shorter or longer) particularly due to weather conditions.

### **Why is EPA's mobile laboratory being used?**

Field laboratory analysis streamlines site characterization and provides real-time definition of the extent of contamination. It can be used at Short Beach since EPA already has some knowledge of the park including what type of soils exist there and which contaminants will likely be encountered. Field analysis gets more characterization completed in a shorter time frame than having to package and send all samples to an off-site commercial lab.

**What is the piece of equipment that looks like a lawn mower?** A specialized contractor is being utilized to operate a ground penetrating radar unit which looks like a lawn mower. The technology emits a pulse of



energy into the ground and is helpful in locating underground utilities and other buried objects. Since there is an extensive system of underground utilities to support the operation of the lights and irrigation systems, all the electric and water lines must be located and marked with flagging before any drilling occurs.

### **What are the technicians wearing in the field?**

All of the staff are wearing cold weather clothing to protect themselves from the frigid weather that is expected during December and January. The technicians who are actually handling the soil samples taken from below the surface will be wearing tyvek protective suits (usually white but sometimes other colors) and respirators periodically as they remove soils from sampling tubes and prepare them for laboratory analysis.



### Why is sampling being done during the winter?

The winter was chosen for the park sampling effort so that the least amount of disruption would be caused to the residents who use the park. Other than the golf course, the rest of the athletic fields are generally unused during the coldest months. EPA has also met with town officials and the Short Beach Commission to find out how to minimize any disruptions to the normal course of winter activity. While sampling can be slowed by snow and extreme cold weather conditions, it can proceed successfully during warm or cold weather.

### How are the samples actually collected?

Direct push sampling is a technique in which a sampling tube is hydraulically pushed or driven into the subsurface and collects material as it advances. The



small drill rig which drives the tubing is about the size of a golf cart and is called a geoprobe. The sampling tubes are 2 feet in length and can provide a continuous sample of the subsurface material. Since the first phase of the sampling is from the surface down to four feet below the surface, two samples are taken: one from 0 to 2 feet; the second from 2 to 4 feet. The environmental specialist will log the type of material



(i.e. clay, sand, etc) collected at each sampling interval and collect a representative sample from the material for laboratory analysis. Direct push sampling can occur only in soils where obstructions such as large rocks are not present. Detailed protocols have been developed by testing laboratories and EPA to ensure that samples are properly collected and analyzed.

### Will any samples be taken from deeper than 4 feet?

The soil sampling study will be conducted in two phases: Phase I will consist of collecting soil samples from 0 to 4 feet below ground surface to determine the depth of the soil cover throughout the park and landfill and to determine the presence or absence of Raymark waste. During this phase, samples will be collected and analyzed primarily for the four contaminants that have been identified as indicators of Raymark waste: lead, asbestos, PCBs, and/or copper. Soils and materials will also be visually inspected by an on-site geologist and documented on a boring log. This will allow an evaluation of the depth of the "clean" soil material placed over various portions of the property throughout the years.

If a Phase I sample indicates the presence of Raymark waste, then additional samples will be collected at greater depths. The decision to continue to deeper Phase II sampling will be based on actual analytical results, meeting the Raymark waste criteria, and/or field determination that Raymark waste may be present.

### What else unusual might I see out at the park or on the golf course?

You will likely see some of the technicians traveling around the park in golf carts since EPA is making every effort to not damage the turf on the fields and the golf course. You may also see a technician, holding a handset that looks like a TV remote, wearing a yellow backpack with a white antenna protruding from the pack.



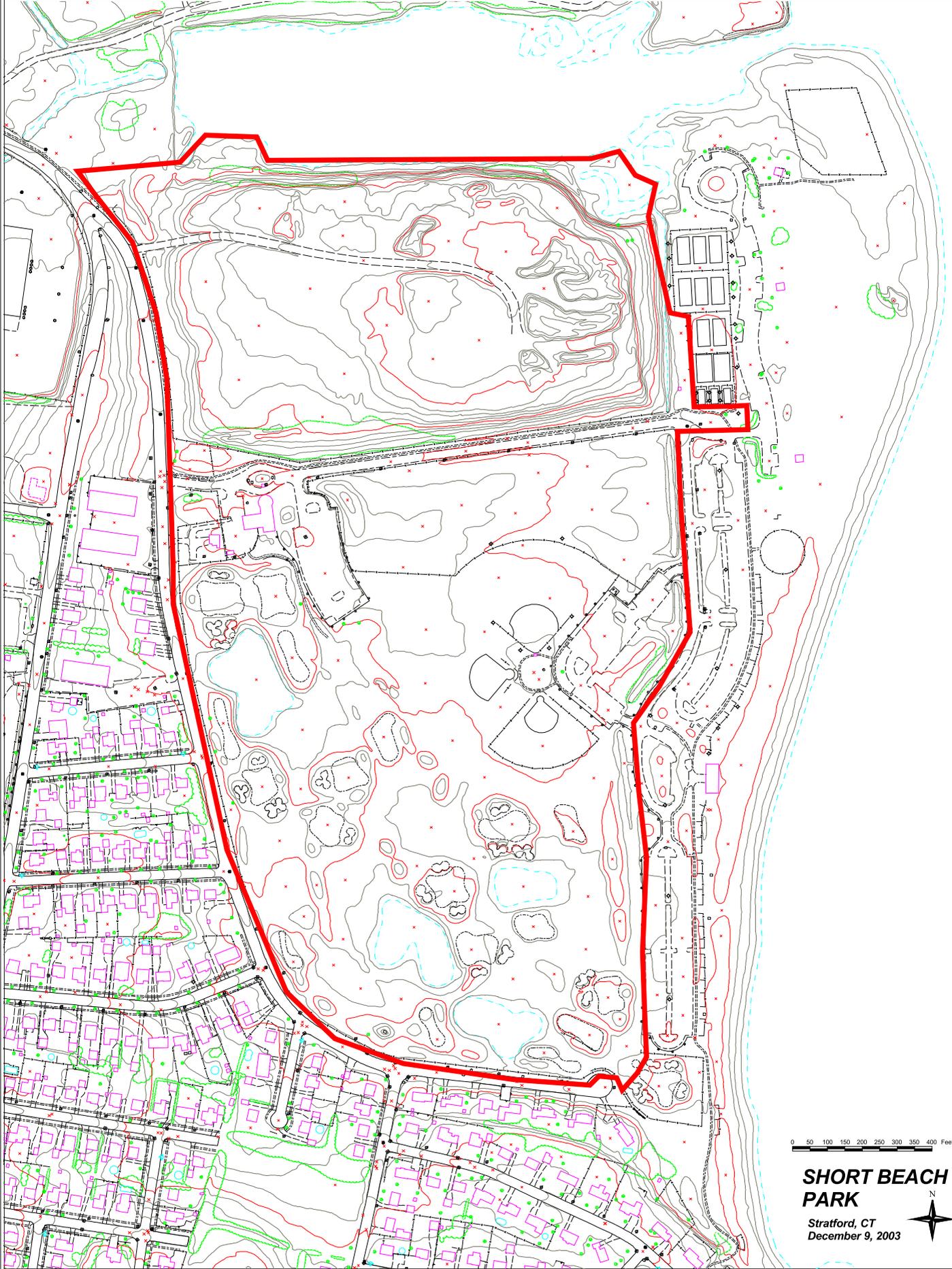
This is a global positioning system (gps) unit which is utilized to mark exactly each sampling location.



### Who should you contact for more information?

Elaine O'Keefe, Stratford Health Department  
Ron Jennings, EPA Project Manager  
Jim Murphy, EPA Community Involvement  
Ron Curran, CTDEP Project Manager

Phone: 203-385-4090  
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Phone: 617-918-1028 or (888) EPA-REG1 ext. 81028  
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# SHORT BEACH PARK

Stratford, CT  
December 9, 2003

