

October 12, 2022

Timothy McDonald
Director of Health and Human Services
Town of Needham
Rosemary Recreation Complex
178 Rosemary Street
Needham, MA 02494

Re: **Central Avenue Utility Work Laydown Area
Claxton Field, Needham MA**

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. (Weston & Sampson) was contacted by the Town of Needham due to a resident complaint regarding health and safety implications from dust and other exposures to potentially impacted soils at Claxton Field (the site). Specifically, concerns were raised due to the current use of a portion of Claxton Field as a laydown area for ongoing construction activities within Central Avenue. The laydown area was previously used as a playground which was removed following identification of solid waste materials and ash below the grass / topsoil and play areas at the site.

Weston & Sampson performed a series of subsurface investigations in 2022 to support proposed field improvements. These investigations identified approximately 6 to 12 inches of topsoil beneath the existing grass surface. Ash deposits and solid waste materials including glass, metal fragments, ceramics and wood were observed beneath the topsoil, generally intermixed with granular fill within the top few feet. These waste materials generally increased in prevalence with depth. Laboratory analytical samples of these materials were not collected as part of the subsurface investigations, however based on our experience with similar sites, it is believed that the soil and waste materials may be impacted with metals (lead, arsenic, chromium, etc.) and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), commonly associated with ash deposits.

In light of the observations of soil with ash and waste materials and reported disturbance and stockpiling of surficial soils within the laydown area, Weston & Sampson mobilized to the Site to observe current conditions. The results of our reconnaissance and recommendations for additional actions are provided below.

Site Reconnaissance

On September 27, 2022, Weston & Sampson mobilized to the site to observe the laydown area and stockpiled materials. A photolog documenting conditions at the time of our reconnaissance is provided as Attachment A. The laydown area consisted of bare earth, surrounded by three-foot snow fencing on the southern side, and the existing chain-link fencing on the northern side along Central Avenue. An approximately 200 cubic yard stockpile site soil was observed adjacent to the entrance gate, which contained visible glass, brick, and metal fragments. These materials were considered to represent approximately less than 5% of the stockpile volume. The stockpile was not covered at the time of our Site visit. No ash or other evidence of waste materials was observed beyond the above.

Weston & Sampson contacted Mr. Paul Bunker of Revoli Construction to discuss the existing stockpile. Mr. Bunker indicated that the laydown area was recently cleared, with approximately one foot of surficial material (grass sod and topsoil) scraped to prepare the area. This material was stockpiled, with the intention of spreading it over the laydown area following construction to restore previous grades. Mr. Bunker estimated that the ongoing Central Avenue utility work would continue for approximately two months prior to restoration and turnover to the Town.

Recommendations

Based on the site history and our observations of the laydown area, we provide the following recommendations as a conservative measure:

- Install competent fencing to restrict public access to the laydown area (i.e., conventional construction fencing rather than the existing three-foot snow fence),
- Cover the soil stockpile to prevent migration of wind-blown dust and dermal contact,
- Prevent further excavation into the waste materials to minimize additional disturbance,
- Utilize dust control measures, potentially including wetting of the exposed soil surface during soil handling,
- Remove visible soil from truck tires prior to leaving the laydown area, and perform additional street sweeping, as needed, and,
- Following spreading of the stockpiled soil at the end of construction, place at least six inches of additional imported loam over the previously stockpiled soil prior to reseeding the area during the 2023 spring growing season.

Should you have any questions regarding the findings of this assessment, please contact the undersigned at (978) 532 – 1900.

Sincerely,

WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC.



Lee Koska, PE
Project Manager

Attachments:

Attachment A: Photolog



Photo 1. Stockpiled topsoil from laydown area.



Photo 2. Glass, metal debris observed in stockpiled topsoil.



Photo 3. Laydown area overview, stockpile indicated by red arrow.