



Town of Leicester
OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

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July 2, 2021

To: Select Board
From: David Genereux, Town Administrator
**RE: Oil Spill at Leicester Elementary School
Report #3**

The following is a compilation of correspondence regarding the oil spill at the Leicester Elementary School. Most is through emails sent and received by the School Business Manager. The activity reports are prepared by Cedwyn Morgan Regional Manager of HETI, the firm that has been contracted by our insurer to perform the cleanup.

Billing thus far: \$371,388.09

Weekly Summary of Activities (June 14 – June 18, 2021)

- **Monday June 14:** Start work but heavy rains / thunderstorms arrive; stabilize work areas and leave for day.
- **Tuesday June 15:** Excavation work cancelled due to forecast of additional heavy rains. HETI inspects drainage channel to make sure booms and erosion controls remain in place.
- **Wednesday June 16:** Continue excavation in drainage channel. Pump oily water generated during excavation to tote. Install vapor pins (soil vapor sampling points) in classrooms 105, 106 and 107. Provide update to Conservation Commission. Provide status update to drainage channel property owner.
- **Thursday June 17:** No work; WME cancelled work early Thursday morning because excavator operator called in sick. Provide status update to drainage channel property owner.
- **Friday June 18:** Continued excavation in drainage channel. Submit post-excavation samples for analysis. Submit additional waste characterization results to Ondrick.

Weekly Summary of Activities (June 21 – June 14, 2021)

- **Monday June 21:** Excavate in drainage channel area; reach downgradient extent of contamination and start backfilling. At school building, complete delineation of southerly extent of contamination in trench along NE building wall. Install one underpin near NE building corner. Consolidate fluids pumped from recovery well. Collect two soil gas samples for APH analysis from vapor pins installed in Room 106. Contacts with NWMCC to plan for drain cleaning/inspection.
- **Tuesday June 23:** No excavation work due to rain in forecast. Provide update to DEP; obtain DEP approval for 250 cy additional excavation.
- **Wednesday June 23:** Continued excavation in drainage channel area. The only area remaining to be excavated is right at the outfall. Backfill excavation and rough-grade. At school building, install underpin at northeast corner of school and complete removal of oily soils from short trench along eastern building

wall. Communications with NWMCC. Provide updates to Conservation Commission and owner of 250 Paxton.

- **Thursday June 24:** Finish backfilling/ rough grading in drainage channel, except for area right at outfall that will be used during storm drain cleaning. Meet NWMCC on-site to prep for drain inspection/cleaning. Backfill trench along east wall of school. Excavate from northeast corner of school towards aboveground oil tank. Load out soils to Ondrick. Additional communications with owner of 250 Paxton.
- **Friday June 25:** Continue excavation towards aboveground tank. Load out soils to Ondrick. Contact Leicester Water District regarding their providing water for drain cleaning; provide update on status of work to Mr. Wood. Meet with Water District on site to discuss location of water main proximal to excavation.

General Project Update:

- **Storm Drain Cleaning/ Inspection.** The drain cleaning/inspection was completed by NWMCC and WME yesterday. NWMCC will provide a report documenting the work. During the process, another catch basin, buried under about a foot of soil, was discovered near the aboveground storage tank (AST). WME pumped oil from the catch basin, which received flow from the catch basin north of the school and directed flow to the catch basin in the field.
- **Drainage Channel.** At the drainage channel, excavation, backfilling and rough grading are complete except for at the containment structure constructed by WME at the outfall. We have received additional post-excavation sample results from the lab for the drainage channel area, and all results are acceptable. We have been in communication with Bill White (owner) and plan to meet on-site with him next week.
- **Excavation Near School.** Underpinning near the northeast building corner is complete, and we have been excavating back towards the tank from the northeast corner. We are at the point where the water main is in the way of continued excavation to the east. There is still field evidence of contamination at the easterly extent, but we have collected soil samples from that excavation wall to determine if the soils can be managed without excavation.

Along the north wall of the school, the contamination was generally confined to a fairly narrow trench below the former fuel lines. As we move away from the school towards the AST, it is apparent that the contamination migrated farther to the south in this area, resulting in a significantly wider excavation. We have not yet reached the southerly limit of contamination in this area. Additional post-excavation sample results have been received from the other areas of school-area excavation, and all results are acceptable.

- **Soil Gas.** Three vapor pins were installed in Room 106, and one vapor pin was installed in each of Room 105 and Room 107. At the time of installation, the pins were screened with a PID and only one of the pins (in Room 106) had elevated PID readings. We sampled that pin, and one of the other pins in Room 106 with a low PID reading, for Air-Phase Hydrocarbon (APH) analysis last week. We received the results of analysis yesterday afternoon. The concentrations in the sample from the pin with the high PID reading exceeded the DEP's sub-slab soil gas screening values, indicating that soil gas entry poses a threat to indoor air quality in Room 106. We will perform testing for a sub-slab depressurization system (roughly equivalent to a radon control system) in Room 106.

The APH concentrations in the sample from the vapor pin in Room 106 with low PID readings were higher than anticipated based on the PID results. Consequently, we will sample soil gas from the vapor pins in Rooms 105 and 107, which also gave low PID readings.

- **Indoor Air.** We plan to re-sample indoor air in rooms 105 and 107 for APH analysis.