



Town of Leicester  
OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

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July 1, 2021

To: Select Board  
From: David Genereux, Town Administrator  
**RE: Oil Spill at Leicester Elementary School  
Report #4**

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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.

The following summarizes activities performed during the period June 28 – July , 2021, to respond to the oil spill at Leicester Elementary:

**Monday June 28:** Excavate in area between NE corner of school and aboveground storage tank (AST); discover that oil has migrated south under parking lot in this area. Meet with Leicester Water District staff regarding water lines near excavation area. Partially backfill excavated area to allow access to storm drain north of school for drain cleaning work on Tuesday.

**Tuesday June 29:** Storm drain cleaning/ inspection by NWMCC. WME pumps catch basins and oily water stored in totes and tanks for off-site disposal. During tracing of drains by NWMCC, an additional catch basin is identified on the north side of the AST. The catch basin, which did not show on drainage system plans, is covered by about one foot of soil and is dug out. WME pumps oil out of the basin

**Wednesday June 30:** Continue excavation between school and tank. Work ends early afternoon due to thunderstorm. Provide update to Conservation Commission.

**Thursday July 1:** No excavation due to thunderstorms in forecast. Provide update to DEP and obtain additional IRA approval. Prep for soil gas sampling on July 1.

**Friday July 2:** No excavation due to thunderstorms in forecast. Inspect drainage channel area for erosion after storms. Collect soil gas samples from existing vapor points in Rooms 105 and 107.

**Monday July 5:** No work, Holiday.

**Tuesday July 6:** Excavate area northeast of school, bounded by water lines. Meet with Leicester Water District on-site. Attempt to sample indoor air in Rooms 105 and 107; problems with valves on canisters; abandon. Submit samples for rush analysis to evaluate if extent of excavation is sufficient

**Wednesday July 7:** Excavate northern border of area northeast of school; complete excavation from school to water lines to tank area. Provide updates to Con Comm and owner of 150 Paxton.

**Thursday, July 8:** Collect indoor air samples from Rooms 105 and 107. Install sub-slab depressurization pilot point in Room 106. Load out drummed sorbents for disposal. Explore around perimeter of tank; separate phase oil observed in stone layer under pad in several locations. Collect additional samples to resolve elevated flashpoint in prior waste characterization sample.

**Friday, July 9:** No work; awaiting lab analyses.

**Explanation of HETI Soils Report:**

This email provides an update for response actions for the oil spill at Leicester Elementary School.

The attached table presents the results of post-excavation soil sampling from the excavations at the drainage channel and the excavation off the northeast corner of the school. The table includes results previously presented from those areas. There were no new samples from the area north of the school. All of the results from that area have been provided previously, so I did not include those pages of the table in the attached version.

There were no exceedances of applicable soil standards in any of the samples from the drainage channel area. Exceedances were reported in two of the samples from the area east of the school. One sample, at the southerly extent of excavation in the area east of the school, barely exceeded (concentration of 106 ppm vs. standard of 100 ppm). Those results will be managed by averaging, and additional excavation is not planned in that area. The other sample was at the easterly extent, and had a more significant exceedance. Additional excavation is planned further east in that area.

Excavation of the drainage channel area is complete. The area has been backfilled and rough-graded. All results from that area have been provided to the property owner, and we are planning to visit the property with him soon; schedule at his discretion.

Please distribute this email to the members of the Commission.