



## f a c t s h e e t

### **Cleaning Buildings & Tanks at the General Chemical Facility in Framingham**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has authorized facility cleaning and decontamination activities under the Closure Plan for General Chemical Corporation (GCC) located at 133 Leland Street in Framingham. The cleaning project will begin on July 30, 2012 and must be completed by August 15, 2012, so as not to disrupt the start of the next school year at the Woodrow Wilson School. Results of recent air monitoring and testing conducted during a pilot cleanup at the closed facility indicated that the cleaning methods produced only low levels of air pollution, below levels of concern for people's health.

**Cleaning Schedule:** The facility cleaning operation will take place Mondays through Saturdays between 6:00am and 10:00pm. Activities that may create significant noise (e.g., tank dismantling) will be restricted to the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm.

**Cleaning Methods:** A combination of high pressure steam and water sprays, flushing, hand cleaning and scarification activities will be used to achieve the necessary clean-up standards.

- High pressure steam and water sprays will be used as the primary cleaning method for the former waste management areas and structures, for example building walls, loading docks and tanks.
- Scarification (a scraping method) will be used to remove 0.6 centimeters of the concrete floor surfaces in the former hazardous waste storage buildings. Air monitoring will be in place to assure no adverse emissions from this activity will go beyond the facility or onto school property or nearby residences.
- Pipes and associated pumps and valves will be flushed with a mixture of water and Simple Green, a common cleaning solution.
- Equipment, tables and cabinets will be cleaned by hand with rags and brushes using Simple Green.

**Indoor Cleaning:** Buildings 1 and 2 (formerly used to store hazardous waste) will have all doors and openings sealed prior to power washing and floor scarifying; workers will use respirators and appropriate personal protective equipment for their health and safety. After cleaning is completed, the inside building surfaces will be sampled to determine if hazardous contaminants have been adequately removed.

**Outdoor Cleaning:** High pressure steam and water sprays will be used at the tanks, outdoor hazardous waste handling areas of the tank farm, loading docks and ramps. The wash water will be collected and disposed of appropriately after testing for hazardous contaminants. In addition, cleaned surfaces will be inspected for obvious staining and sampled as necessary to determine if hazardous contaminants have been adequately removed.

**Disposal of Cleaning Waste:** Pressure washing liquids and scarification wastes will all be collected, stored and sampled for hazardous waste contaminants; these materials will be packaged, labeled and disposed of appropriately off-site.

**Disposal of Tanks:** After tanks are cleaned and dismantled they will be properly managed off-site.

**PCB Sampling and Cleaning:** The PCB staging area, designated storage bay and other storage areas within Building No.1, and equipment used for PCB handling will be cleaned. The floors will be scarified and the equipment (e.g., fork lift blades) will be sampled and cleaned as necessary. Floors and equipment will then be sampled to demonstrate they meet EPA's clean-up standard of less than 1 milligram/kilogram of PCB.

**Air Quality Monitoring:** Outdoor air monitoring will be conducted during the power washing, steam cleaning and floor scarifying of the buildings and tanks. Continuous air monitoring and air sampling at the facility's fence line will be conducted during all cleaning activities.

- If air monitoring shows that any emissions of concern are likely to approach MassDEP's health-based standards, the cleaning work will be shut down and adjustments will be made to ensure that the re-start of the work will not adversely affect people in the vicinity of the facility.

**Field Monitoring:** MassDEP will be overseeing work throughout the July 30 to August 15 cleaning project by having its FAST mobile lab on-site at key times and conducting routine and unannounced site visits. Staff will take photographs of key activities and record observations at each inspection during the cleaning project. These photos and notes will be routinely posted on MassDEP's GCC website through the project's completion.

**Community Impacts:** The pilot test results showed no adverse levels of air pollution were detected that would be of concern to the surrounding community. However, as an extra precaution, residents near the GCC facility may choose to keep windows closed and/or to avoid the playground at the nearby Woodrow Wilson School during the cleaning project.

**Communication:** MassDEP has been working closely with the Framingham Town Manager, School Department, Board of Health, Fire Department and other town officials to ensure that communication of the proposed work and any issues that could arise will be addressed. Also, MassDEP has provided a multi-lingual announcement for Town officials to share with the neighborhood residents before the project starts.

For more information: visit <http://www.mass.gov/dep/about/region/gcc.htm>, or contact Albert Nardone at MassDEP (email: [albert.nardone@state.ma.us](mailto:albert.nardone@state.ma.us), telephone: 617/292-5580).

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