



f a c t s h e e t

Cleaning Buildings and Tanks at the General Chemical Facility in Framingham

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announced today that it has authorized an initial step in the cleanup of buildings, tanks, and associated structures at the General Chemical Corporation's (GCC) closed hazardous waste storage facility located at 133 Leland Street in Framingham. **This initial step will test the project's cleaning procedures between 8:00 p.m. and midnight on June 26, 2012.**

Pilot test: For this test, GCC will use MassDEP-approved methods to clean interior surfaces in one building and one above-ground tank. During the test, outdoor air quality will be monitored at the GCC property, to ensure that pollution resulting from the cleaning will not exceed MassDEP's health-based air quality standards. GCC will collect air samples on their property during the test. MassDEP's Field Assessment and Support Team mobile laboratory will also be at the site to monitor air quality. The samples will provide information about baseline air quality conditions at the property, and the results will be used to determine if the planned cleaning activities need to be modified to ensure that air quality in the neighborhood does not exceed MassDEP's health-based standards.

Precautions during the pilot test:

- MassDEP will shut down cleaning activities during the pilot test if field air monitoring shows emissions of chemicals of concern that approach health-based standards.
- As an added precaution, the Department advises nearby residents to keep their windows closed during the pilot test period, and to avoid the playground at the nearby Woodrow Wilson School

Pilot test results: Some of the air quality samples taken during the pilot test will be sent to a laboratory for more in-depth analysis than can be done with field testing equipment. MassDEP expects to receive the results of this analysis within two to three weeks of the pilot test. These test results will help MassDEP decide whether cleaning plans need to be changed to prevent air pollution before the full-scale cleaning work starts later this summer.

Plans for Closing the Facility: General Chemical announced on March 1, 2012, that it plans to close the Framingham facility. Since it filed this notice with MassDEP, the company has stopped accepting waste and has emptied its buildings and tanks of waste material.

The full cleaning of the facility's buildings and tanks is expected to be conducted between July 28 and August 15, 2012, under a separate authorization from MassDEP that will establish conditions that General Chemical must follow to ensure that public

health and the environment are protected during this work. MassDEP has been working closely with the Framingham School Department, Board of Health, Fire Department and other town officials to ensure that this work is scheduled for a time when students and teachers will not be in the school building, and that custodial staff will be advised about any precautions they should take to ensure that they will not be exposed to air pollution that may result from the future planned cleaning activities.

Air quality monitoring will also be conducted during the full cleaning of the facility's buildings and tanks. If this monitoring shows that emissions of chemicals of concern are likely to approach MassDEP's health-based standards, the cleaning work will be shut down and redesigned to ensure that the work will not adversely affect people in the vicinity of the facility.

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, telephone: 617/292-5580).

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