

**Investigation of Waste Material
in the
Bliss Corner Neighborhood
Dartmouth, Massachusetts**

Release Tracking Number: 4-0027620

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
(MassDEP)

December 2021



Introductions / Agenda

- MassDEP Staff
- EPA Staff
- Representative Christopher Markey
- 15 Minute PowerPoint Presentation
- Q&A
 - Raise-Hand feature in Zoom
 - Type questions in chat
 - Additional resources: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/bliss-corner-neighborhood-dartmouth-ma>

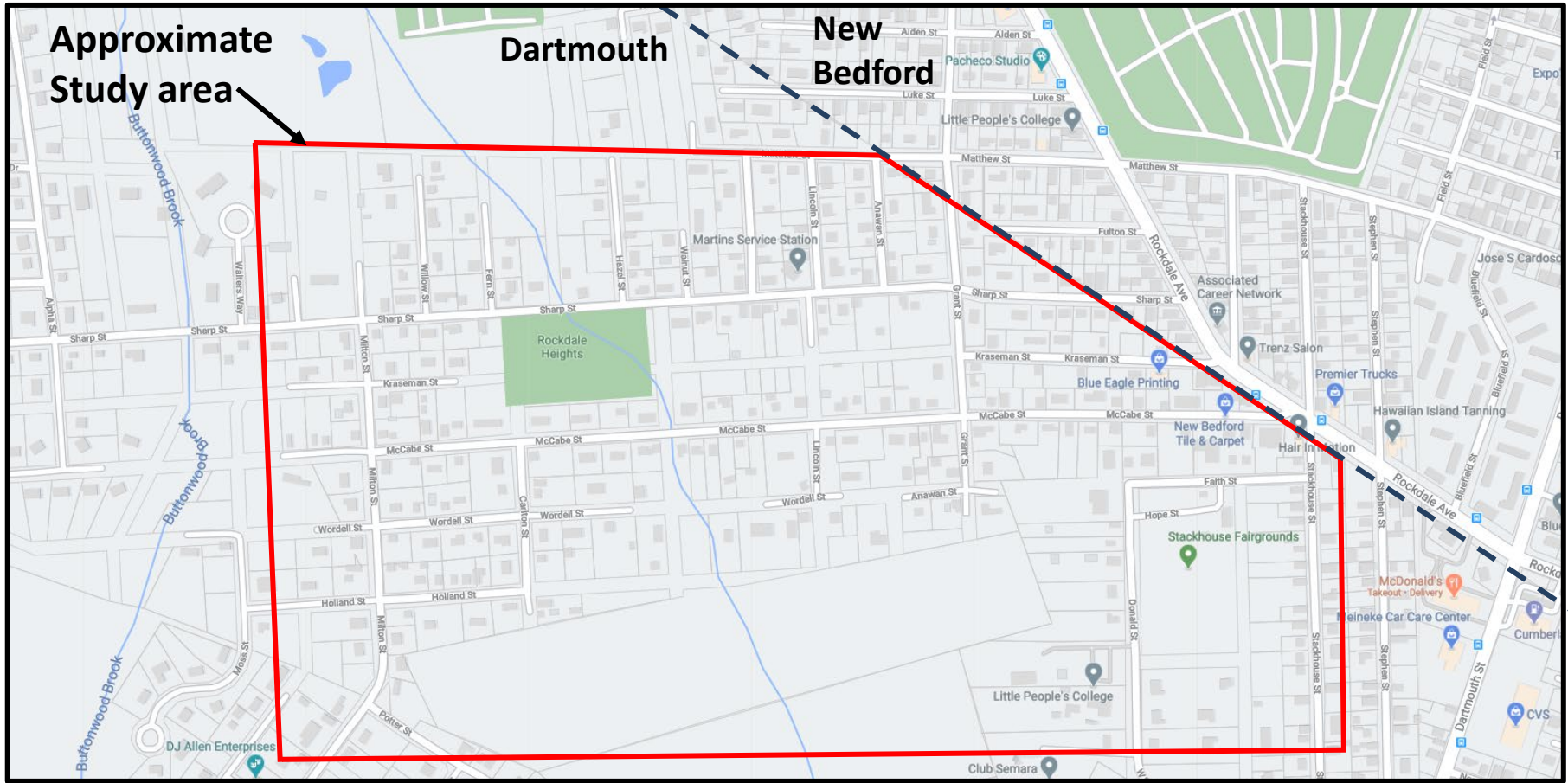


Contents of Presentation

1. Map of the Study Area
2. Summary of Past Meetings and Site Investigations
3. Residential Sampling
4. Potentially Responsible Parties
5. Actions You Can Take to Minimize Potential Risks
While the Investigation Continues
6. Learn About Elevated Levels of Lead
7. Questions



Bliss Corner Neighborhood Study Area



Summary of Previous Public Meetings

In 2018:

- Inspection at 85 McCabe Street identified waste material and buried drums containing unknown material
- MassDEP obtained historic newspaper articles from the 1930s that indicate dumping was occurring in the Bliss Corner neighborhood
- Inspection of 20 & 21 Kraseman Street and 31 McCabe Street identified similar waste material
- PCBs at 20 Kraseman Street were at levels that could pose an Imminent Hazard



Summary of Previous Public Meetings

In 2019:

- Sampled private wells and found no exceedance of Drinking Water Standards
- Issued Requests for Information to New Bedford and Dartmouth for records related to historic dumping
- Collected soil and groundwater samples from 18 locations within Town-owned rights-of-ways
- Began sampling residential properties
- Requested US EPA's assistance with the investigation



Residential Soil Sampling

In 2019:

- Between July 2019 and December 2019, MassDEP sampled 30 residential properties
- Only properties that contacted MassDEP were sampled
- PCBs were identified at 2 properties at potential Imminent Hazard levels
- Lead was identified at many locations above the residential standard



Residential Soil Sampling

In 2020:

- US EPA joined MassDEP sampling efforts to better define the geographic boundaries of the contamination
- Between July 2020 and October 2020, 37 residences were tested
 - US EPA's contractor collected soil samples
 - Only properties that contacted MassDEP were sampled
 - Lead was identified at many locations in excess of the residential standard



Residential Soil Sampling

In 2021:

- In June, an additional 9 residences were tested
 - Access Agreements were mailed to 25 properties located near known areas of contamination
 - 9 property owners consented to the sampling
- Since sampling began in 2019, a total of 76 properties have been tested



Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

- MassDEP sent Requests for Information (RFIs) to the City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth in 2019
- Based on information provided in response to those RFIs, MassDEP issued Notices of Responsibility to the City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth as Potentially Responsible Parties for the contamination in the Bliss Corner neighborhood



PRP Response to NORs

- City of New Bedford indicated that it is not in a position to undertake response actions within another municipality at this time
- Town of Dartmouth indicated it would continue to assist DEP but is unable to undertake remediation actions at this time



Request for EPA Assistance

- On August 23, 2021, MassDEP issued a Request for EPA Assistance to conduct a removal action
 - To address single-family owner-occupied residences sampled to date with the highest levels of lead and/or PCBs
- On September 14, EPA approved the request



U.S. EPA Removal Action

- Overview

- EPA signed an Action Memorandum in September 2021

- Authorizes addressing residential properties with highest levels of lead and PCB soil contamination.
 - EPA will remove contaminated soil from residential properties beginning in spring of 2022 lasting around 5 months;
 - No plans to expand the scope of this project



U.S. EPA Removal Action

- What the property owner can expect
 - Meeting with EPA team prior to start;
 - Assessment of existing conditions and plant inventory;
 - Property survey if determined necessary;
 - EPA will not excavate under paved areas and fixed structures;
 - Remove and replace fencing as needed;
 - Excavate contaminated soil to a maximum depth of three feet below ground surface and transport to staging area;
 - Backfill excavated area with fill dirt and top soil;
 - Restore property with fencing, grass, plants;
 - Provide a final report documenting project to resident.



U.S. EPA Removal Action

- Protective Measures

- EPA will apply water to the excavation area to prevent spread of contamination due to wind and dry conditions;
- EPA will decontaminate any trucks transporting soil to the staging area to prevent spread of contamination;
 - Loads will be completely covered and tires will be cleaned;
- EPA will set up real-time air monitoring at active excavation areas.



Actions You Can Take to Minimize Potential Risk

- Avoid direct contact with waste material
 - Refrain from digging whenever possible
 - If digging is necessary, wear protective clothing, footwear and gloves and wash your hands thoroughly when finished
 - If you plan to dig, MassDEP recommends you notify the Town of Dartmouth Board of Health by calling (508) 910-1804



Actions You Can Take to Minimize Potential Risk

- Avoid growing fruits and vegetables in waste material
 - MassDEP recommends following “*Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Non-Commercial Gardening at Disposal Sites*” (WSC#14-910), which can be found at:
<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/om/14-910.pdf>



Learn How to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Soil

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)
 - *Protecting Children From High Levels of Lead in Soil* available at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-brochures-and-fact-sheets>
 - Instructions on how to build a raised garden, [https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/soilshop/docs/A AP soilSHOP 508.pdf](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/soilshop/docs/A_AP_soilSHOP_508.pdf)
 - Questions or concerns about lead exposure should be directed to Community Health Assessment in DPH's Bureau of Environmental Health at 617-624-5757



Future Questions

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- Additional information is available on our Bliss Corner webpage at:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/bliss-corner-neighborhood-dartmouth-ma>
- The Bliss Corner site file can be viewed at:
<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>
 - Note: you can search by “RTN” (release tracking number) **4-0027620**

