



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

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### Former General Chemical Site Update

#### 133-135 Leland St., Framingham

May 2020

The purpose of this notice is to provide an update on MassDEP's partial cleanup of the former General Chemical property on Leland Street in Framingham. At a public meeting held on February 6, 2020 at the Woodrow Wilson elementary school, MassDEP informed the public and local officials that the construction phase of the cleanup would begin in March 2020 and continue to mid-June, when start-up of the in situ thermal treatment system would commence.

On March 15, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As a result, and due to other ongoing issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, MassDEP has delayed the construction phase of the General Chemical site cleanup to avoid placing our employees and contractors at risk.

Unfortunately, given these ongoing risks MassDEP is informing the community that the cleanup activities at the General Chemical property will be on hold until the Spring of 2021. The uncertainties and risks associated with COVID-19 warrant a prudent and gradual return to our normal operations. The decision to push the start of cleanup activities is informed by three main factors:

1. MassDEP needs to ensure the protection of its employees and contractors during the cleanup at this site. At this point, guidance on the appropriate level of personal protective equipment and other protective measures is still evolving.
2. There is no current exposure to the contaminants at the General Chemical site. This is confirmed through semi-annual testing of groundwater and surface water at key locations. MassDEP will continue with the semi-annual testing to ensure that contaminant conditions have not changed.
3. If site work re-started immediately, the cleanup would extend to mid-to-late November, well into the fall school year. As discussed during the February 6<sup>th</sup> public meeting, and consistent with the City's preference, MassDEP's goal is to conduct the in situ thermal treatment remedy for the General Chemical site over the summer months when there are less students and faculty present. While it is not anticipated there will be any fugitive emissions generated by the treatment process, MassDEP agreed that this represented a good, common sense approach to mitigate any potential exposures.

While it is disappointing that the partial cleanup of the General Chemical site is being moved to next spring, MassDEP remains committed to conducting this clean up and the funding remains in place to do so. MassDEP will continue to provide updates on future actions conducted at the site.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.  
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370  
MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

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