



Department of Environmental Protection

McGilpin Road in Sturbridge Project Update for the Week of June 12, 2017

Residential Sampling

MassDEP continues to work with its contractor and is on target to begin re-sampling at 43 homes on McGilpin Road (these have all been previously sampled) next week and continuing through 6/30. This week, MassDEP reached out to homeowners to coordinate dates and times for sampling. This will be the third round of sampling at these residences by MassDEP. The first two sampling events were previously conducted between January and May of this year.

Direct Well Sampling

MassDEP is developing a plan to sample the raw water (directly in the well) of select residential wells on McGilpin Road. MassDEP has selected 6-8 homes on McGilpin Road for direct well sampling. This week, staff are reaching out to homeowners to request permission for direct well sampling and to coordinate dates and times. The direct well sampling is scheduled to take place next week, beginning Tuesday, 6/20. We are also continuing to consult with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a sampling protocol that may provide additional information about the bedrock aquifer groundwater and source of lead.

Installation of Monitoring Wells

Earlier this week, MassDEP held an onsite meeting in Sturbridge with our contractor to assess field conditions and plan for land assessment between McGilpin Road and the Southbridge Landfill. On Thursday, MassDEP was again onsite with our contractor, evaluating areas where property access has been granted (this included areas owned by the Southbridge Landfill owner/operator), assessing physical accessibility, topography, and other limitations to conducting subsurface investigations, including possible geophysical survey and future installation of monitoring wells. We hope to have access agreements in place by the end of June and site identification efforts, including geophysics, taking place in July.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

This week, MassDEP met with the Sturbridge Board of Health on Wednesday to help identify wetlands and streams for surface water and sediment sampling between the Southbridge Landfill and McGilpin Road. On Thursday, MassDEP collected surface and sediment samples for laboratory analysis where property access has been granted, including wetlands around the Southbridge Landfill and McKinstry Brook. We expect to have the results of this sampling by June 30.

Review of other potential sources

No additional update. MassDEP has identified other properties that may warrant additional investigation. Specifically, two parcels on McGilpin Road have been described as old junkyards or as having buried debris. To date, MassDEP has conducted surficial investigations, including a magnetometer survey and ground penetrating radar survey at one property. MassDEP will continue to evaluate if further investigation of these parcels is needed, as additional information is collected and reviewed.