



Department of Environmental Protection

McGilpin Road in Sturbridge Project Update for the Week of November 6th, 2017

Sturbridge Geophysical Investigation

MassDEP met with its contractors on October 12, 2017, for a “kick-off” meeting to discuss possible geologic and geophysical investigation activities, and develop a conceptual project scope of work.

Watermark Consulting, Inc. submitted a “Work and Cost Plan” November 9, 2017, as the first activity of the project. The plan includes a review of the site background, a scope of work for the Implementation Plan, list of deliverables, summary of assumptions, a staffing plan, and project schedule and budget. A site walkover is tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2017.

USGS Proposal

MassDEP received a draft proposal from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on November 9th, 2017 titled “Occurrence and Sources of Lead in Private Wells in Sturbridge, MA”. The objective of the proposal is to evaluate whether the private bedrock wells on McGilpin Road and Fiske Hill Road have a significantly higher rate of concentrations of lead as compared to other private wells completed in the same bedrock unit. The investigation will also compare the isotopic signatures of lead and strontium from waters and particulates that are collected directly from the wells. Finally, the investigation will evaluate whether lead concentrations are related to water corrosivity, which would implicate the plumbing system as the source of lead.

Review of other potential sources

MassDEP continues to pursue subsurface investigations at two sites on McGilpin Road. We are currently coordinating access and defining the scope of work at these sites.