



Department of Environmental Protection

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Update #5 – MassDEP's South Framingham Initiative – February 22, 2018

MassDEP is continuing its work to help improve environmental quality in South Framingham. This is the fifth update of MassDEP's efforts on environmental impacts in this area of the city. The last Update was issued on August 7, 2017. Currently, MassDEP's Waste Site Cleanup program is focused on ensuring the assessment and cleanup of three large, historic waste sites in South Framingham. The three sites are:

- a. The closed General Chemical facility on Leland Street;
- b. Mary Dennison Park on Beaver Street; and
- c. The former Commonwealth Gas manufactured gas plant site at 350 Irving Street

Former General Chemical Site, Leland Street

In March, 2017, a representative for General Chemical Corporation informed MassDEP in that the company would not be conducting any further testing or cleanup of their site due to a lack of funds. One of the first actions taken by MassDEP was to ask the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to evaluate the site for possible listing on the National Priorities List, otherwise known as "Superfund". Being placed on the Superfund list would make a site eligible for federal resources to assess and clean up the site. In the Summer and Fall of 2017, EPA's Region 1 undertook an evaluation of the site for possible inclusion on the Superfund list. In October of 2017, EPA informed MassDEP that it was unlikely that the site would qualify for Superfund listing. In light of that finding, MassDEP re-focused our attention on a State-Lead cleanup. A State contractor (Aptim Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc.) was selected to evaluate the best use of the available funds for this site. Aptim, with input from its sub-contractor that specializes in thermal cleanup (TerraTherm), submitted its evaluation to MassDEP on January 31, 2018. When we complete our review of this information, we will share the report with representatives of the City of Framingham and the Town of Sherborn. Once we determine whether additional information is necessary and any other outstanding issues that we identify are addressed by our contractor, MassDEP will inform the public of its approach to cleanup at the General Chemical site.

In November, 2017, Aptim collected samples of groundwater and surface water for the semi-annual monitoring that has been performed at this site since 2014. The report of the semi-annual monitoring round was sent to the information repository that has been established for the General Chemical site. It was also sent to the Framingham Board of Health and the Sherborn Board of Health, and it is also available for the public to review

at MassDEP's on-line file viewer, along with other reports for this site. The address for the on-line file viewer is http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_viewer/main.aspx. The Release Tracking Number for this site is 3-0019174.

In addition to the testing and remedial evaluation activities described above, MassDEP is working to identify other potentially responsible parties who may have liability for cleaning up the contamination left behind by General Chemical. MassDEP issued Requests For Information to several companies in order to gain more knowledge about their past interactions with the General Chemical site. MassDEP has also issued Notices of Responsibility to two entities that we have already identified as Potentially Responsible Parties.

Lastly, with respect to the Public Involvement aspect of this site, MassDEP expects to hold a public meeting in late Spring or early Summer of 2018 to discuss the status of the cleanup plans. Notices about the date and location of the meeting will be distributed once they are established.

Mary Dennison Park, Beaver Street

Mary Dennison Park was constructed on a former dump used by the Town (now City) of Framingham and Dennison Manufacturing Company. In February, 2018, a Comprehensive Site Assessment, including a Risk Characterization, is due to be submitted to MassDEP. This report will document all of the testing that has been performed since the detection of elevated levels of lead and other metals at the Park were reported to MassDEP in 2014. Since the August, 2017 Update, the environmental consultants working on behalf of the City of Framingham and Avery Dennison Corporation have been working on the final pieces of the Comprehensive Site Assessment. MassDEP has recently been informed that one particular aspect of the Comprehensive Site Assessment - determining whether landfill wastes extend onto properties abutting the park – will not be completed by the February deadline. This remaining piece of the Comprehensive Site Assessment is expected to be completed in 2018. The specific activities to wrap up the Comprehensive Site Assessment are described in a Scope of Work that was provided to MassDEP in July, 2017, and an additional plan submitted in August, 2017. MassDEP's approval of the Scope of Work was issued on September 22, 2017, and can be reviewed at our on-line file viewer at http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_viewer/main.aspx under Release Tracking Number 3-0032015. Following completion of the Comprehensive Site Assessment, the evaluation of cleanup options and selection of a Remedial Action Plan is the next step in the cleanup and restoration of Dennison Park.

Former Commonwealth Gas Site, 350 Irving Street

On June 16, 2017, MassDEP issued a second Notice of Audit Findings/Notice of Noncompliance (Audit/NON) to Eversource for the property at 350 Irving Street in Framingham. The Audit/NON details MassDEP's findings with respect to the investigative approach and conclusions in a Revised Comprehensive Site Assessment report that had been submitted for the site in October of 2016. As required by MassDEP, Eversource submitted an Audit Follow-up Plan and Scope of Work on September 15, 2017. The Scope of Work identified the actions that Eversource and its environmental consultants proposed to take to address the issues MassDEP documented in the Audit/NON, including further testing of soil, groundwater, surface

water and sediments of Beaver Dam Brook and an unnamed stream that have been impacted by coal tar constituents. The Scope of Work also proposed further evaluation of relict infrastructure buried at the site, the removal of rusted drums and associated debris from the site, and other necessary assessment to support a Comprehensive Site Assessment. In the months following the submittal of the Scope of Work, MassDEP staff, Eversource staff, and their environmental consultants have engaged in numerous technical discussions about the appropriate approach to characterizing the site. On December 18, 2017, a revised Scope of Work was submitted to MassDEP, which was conditionally approved on January 29, 2018. MassDEP's approval letter, the Scopes of Work, and other associated documents can be found at MassDEP's on-line file viewer at http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_viewer/main.aspx under Release Tracking Number 3-0000589. Based on MassDEP's approval of the revised Scope of Work, there will be a considerable amount of additional site characterization at this site over the next 10 months. This additional site characterization work will be included with existing site data in a Second Revised Comprehensive Site Assessment and a revised Remedial Action Plan, which will form the basis for the evaluation and selection of cleanup actions.

MassDEP will continue to issue Updates on these sites to inform the public of the progress in improving environmental quality and reducing health risks in this area of Framingham.

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