



## Department of Environmental Protection

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### **Update #6 – MassDEP’s South Framingham Initiative – October 31, 2018**

MassDEP is continuing its work to help improve environmental quality in South Framingham. This is the sixth update of MassDEP’s efforts on environmental impacts in this area of the city. The last Update was issued on February 22, 2018. 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.

On Feb 22, 2018, MassDEP staff met with Mayor Spicer and other City of Framingham officials to apprise the Mayor of the work MassDEP has undertaken in South Framingham over the past four years. On April 3, 2018, MassDEP staff met with the Framingham City Council to provide them with a similar update.

#### **Former General Chemical Site, Leland Street**

In the Summer of 2017, MassDEP selected a contractor (Aptim Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc.) to evaluate the best use of the available funds for cleaning up this site. Aptim submitted its initial evaluation to MassDEP on January 31, 2018. MassDEP requested that staff from EPA’s National Risk Management Research Laboratory review Aptim’s draft report and provide any comments they may have to MassDEP. On March 1, MassDEP received EPA’s comments on Aptim’s draft “Focused Remedy Evaluation.” One of the comments in particular flagged concerns with soil and groundwater contamination at the former Above-ground Storage Tank (AST) Containment Area. In light of this concern, MassDEP determined that additional testing was necessary in the former AST Containment Area to help address uncertainties in the degree, location, and depth of contamination in that area.

In April, 2018, Aptim initiated a limited sub-surface testing program in the former AST Containment Area. Borings were advanced to depths between 35 - 50 feet below ground surface and soil samples were collected every 5 feet. Once the boring was advanced, groundwater samples were collected for analysis from depths having the highest levels of contamination measured in field screening. Aptim’s report on this work was posted to MassDEP’s on-line file viewer on June 29, 2018. Based upon the data, MassDEP directed Aptim to perform additional testing at the former AST Containment Area, which took

**This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.**

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place from July 31 – August 1. The laboratory results from this combined testing program show that there is significant contamination in portions of the former AST Containment Area and nearby that area. Several more borings are being planned to further delineate the contaminant concentrations in the former AST Containment Area. These results will help MassDEP and its contractor refine the area of the General Chemical site that will be targeted for the first phase of cleanup.

Aside from the site cleanup plans, MassDEP is continuing with semi-annual monitoring of surface water and groundwater that has been performed at this site since 2014. From May 23 through May 24, 2018, Aptim collected samples of groundwater from 15 monitoring wells and 9 surface water samples for analysis. The results were consistent with prior sampling rounds. There were no contaminants detected in the monitoring well closest to the Wilson School. The report of the semi-annual monitoring 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 was posted on June 25, 2018 at MassDEP's on-line file viewer, along with other reports for this site, for public review. The address for the on-line file viewer is <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>. The MassDEP Release Tracking Number for this site is 3-0019174. The next round of groundwater and surface water testing will be conducted in late November, 2018.

In addition to the testing and remedial evaluation activities described above, MassDEP is continuing to work to identify other potentially responsible parties who may have liability for cleaning up the contamination left behind by General Chemical. MassDEP has issued Requests For Information to over 30 businesses 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 have already been identified as Potentially Responsible Parties.

Lastly, with respect to the Public Involvement aspect of this site, MassDEP is planning to hold a public meeting once our contractor has developed the remedial plan. At the public meeting, MassDEP will inform the public of our approach to starting cleanup at the General Chemical site. 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, for the park portion of the Site was submitted to MassDEP. This report documents all of the testing that has been performed through 2017 since the detection of elevated levels of lead and other metals at Mary Dennison Park were reported to MassDEP in 2014. MassDEP completed its review of the Comprehensive Site Assessment for the park portion of the Site and provided its comments to Avery Dennison Corporation and the City of Framingham on August 27, 2018.

One particular aspect of the Comprehensive Site Assessment - determining whether landfill-related contamination extends onto properties abutting the park – was not completed by the February, 2018 deadline. To wrap up the Comprehensive Site Assessment, testing of private properties that abut the park is needed to determine if any wastes had been placed on those properties. On May 9, 2018, after discussions and written communications with Avery Dennison Corporation and the City of Framingham, MassDEP received a final work plan for testing abutting properties. This testing commenced on May 10, 2018 and included five residential and four commercial properties. Results of that testing showed that high levels of lead well above MassDEP's standards were, in fact, present on two

residential properties. In light of these findings, MassDEP was notified on June 7, 2018 of the conditions, and approved immediate actions to prevent exposure to those soils. The contaminated soils have been temporarily covered and/or fenced off to prevent exposure, and will need to be addressed in a more permanent manner to meet MassDEP's requirements. Results of the entire off-park property sampling program are currently being reviewed by MassDEP and will be incorporated into a complete Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment.

The reports cited above are available on-line and can be reviewed at MassDEP's file viewer at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite> 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 January 29, 2018, MassDEP approved a Scope of Work submitted by Eversource in December 2017 to address issues that MassDEP had identified in previous site assessment reports. 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 that is being conducted in 2018 to support a Comprehensive Site Assessment and Risk Characterization. MassDEP also issued an approval letter for the Audit Follow-Up Plan submitted by Eversource to MassDEP. That approval was then followed by a letter in which MassDEP provided responses to questions posed by Eversource pertaining to ecological and human health issues for this site. It is expected that these communications will help ensure that the resulting Comprehensive Site Assessment will meet MassDEP's regulatory requirements.

MassDEP and Eversource also entered into an Administrative Consent Order on June 7, 2018 to memorialize the commitments by Eversource to comply with MassDEP's site assessment and cleanup regulations. The Administrative Consent Order revised the previous deadlines set by MassDEP for completion of work under the Waste Site Cleanup program. These revised deadlines reflect the time needed to: (1) complete the extensive supplemental assessment work being undertaken to delineate the extent of contamination and identify any additional sources requiring cleanup; (2) obtain any necessary local, state and/or federal permits for the future removal of coal tar from within and adjacent to onsite wetlands, the unnamed stream and Beaver Dam Brook; and (3) implement large-scale cleanup activities. Given the complexity of the site, the revised deadlines also provide time between each step for MassDEP to review the individual reports submitted by Eversource documenting the work conducted, the evaluation of cleanup options, and the specific plans to implement the necessary cleanup activities.

The warmer temperatures that came in June 2018 resulted in the recurrence of tar seeps at the ground surface on the Wellesley Trucking and Landscape Depot parcels, prompting MassDEP to require Eversource to augment their monitoring and response plan for these tar seeps. On June 29, 2018, Eversource submitted a modified response plan to MassDEP to address the tar seeps. The proposed excavation work was completed in July 2018, and weekly inspections and any necessary work to address additional seeps continue as needed.

Other work that has been conducted at the 350 Irving Street property since the last Update includes a Ground Penetrating Radar survey and several other diagnostic techniques to help determine the

presence of sub-surface tar deposits and buried infrastructure that could be an ongoing source of tar or oils into the environment. Eversource's environmental consultants have followed up these surveys/techniques with test pits to directly observe sub-surface conditions in any areas when "anomalies" were identified. Upcoming assessment activities include sediment sampling to better define the extent of contamination within Beaver Dam Brook and removal of rusted drums and other debris throughout undeveloped areas of the Site.

This additional site characterization work will be included with existing site data in a Second Revised Comprehensive Site Assessment, due by May 31, 2019, and a Revised Remedial Action Plan, due by May 31, 2020, which will form the basis for the evaluation and selection of comprehensive cleanup actions.

MassDEP's approval letters, the Scopes of Work, and other associated documents for this site can be found at MassDEP's on-line file viewer at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite> under Release Tracking Number 3-0000589.

*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.*