

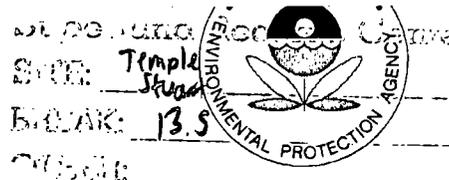
Temple-Stuart Update

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Town of Templeton to remove friable asbestos, polychlorinated byphenyls (PCB's) and other hazardous substances from the former Temple-Stuart facility in Baldwinville. Below is an update on activities.

Recent Site Activities

EPA has completed work cleaning up friable asbestos contamination at the Temple-Stewart facility in Baldwinville, with assistance from the Town of Templeton and the MA DEP. This work began in August 2002.

In addition, EPA sampling in the former landfill areas detected elevated levels of PCBs. Additional sampling done to support MA DEP's effort to fence contaminated areas revealed that PCB's were also present in soil samples across the Temple-Stuart property, including areas adjacent to neighboring residential properties.

As a result of this information, EPA sampled surface soils (soils in the first 0 - 6 inches) on 40 residential properties near the site, in order to determine if any PCB contamination was present in surface soils. EPA has completed this sampling effort and results have been delivered to individual homeowners. Individuals who would like to discuss their sampling results one-on-one with EPA representatives are encouraged to call the telephone numbers listed on the back of this flyer or to stop by the site trailer. EPA will host a public information session in the early spring to discuss next steps for the residential properties.

On Monday, December 1st, work crews began removing PCB-contaminated soil from interior areas of the property and staging it for disposal off-site. As of December 4th, about 100 cubic yards of soil have been removed. In the next few weeks, the work crews will begin removing PCB contaminated soils from across the entire site including along Holman Street, which is visible to nearby residents.

What to Expect During the Next Phase of Work

- Air monitoring will be conducted at the excavation site, the stockpile area, and the site perimeter during the removal action to ensure that on-site activities do not impact air quality. If necessary, on-site personnel may need to apply water for dust suppression or apply foam to the excavation areas.
- On-site workers will be wearing personal protective gear while performing their jobs. This includes impermeable white suits, hard hats, and possibly respirators and / or self contained breathing apparatus.
- Personal protective gear for on-site workers is mandated by federal law and does not mean that you are in any danger.
- Based on preliminary investigations of the site, this phase of the removal action is expected to last until early in 2004. Depending on the weather, it may need to be completed in the spring of 2004.
- The EPA on-scene coordinator and / or his representative will be on-site at all times to ensure that all health and safety protocols and proper work practices are being followed.
- Removed soil piles will be stockpiled and covered on site until definitive lab

results are available to determine their eventual disposal. They will likely be transported off the site in the spring.

- Prior to leaving the site, all trucks carrying hazardous substances off-site for disposal will be inspected to ensure that all tie-downs are secure and all soil and/or containers are covered. Any vehicle leaving the site will undergo a tire inspection and/or cleanup to ensure that contaminated soil is not leaving the work area.

For More Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Community Involvement Coordinator
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What are PCBs?

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a family of man-made chemicals that contain 209 different variations, or congeners. PCBs are typically found in the environment as mixtures of different congeners. There are no known natural sources of PCBs. PCBs are typically oily liquids, ranging from colorless to light yellow in color. They have no smell or taste. Because PCBs do not burn easily and are a good insulating material, PCBs have been widely used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment. Consumer products that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures, hydraulic fluids and electrical devices or appliances containing PCB capacitors made before PCB use was stopped.

The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the United States in 1977 because of evidence that PCBs build up in the environment and cause harmful effects.

Although PCBs are no longer manufactured, they are very persistent chemicals and once in the environment, do not break down easily. While they tend to remain attached to particles of soil and any process that moves soil can also move the attached PCB, PCBs are widely distributed throughout the environment and can be found at background levels in the outdoor air, on soil surfaces and in water.