



## Department of Environmental Protection

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### **Former General Chemical Site Update 133-135 Leland St., Framingham April 2021**

On May 20, 2020 MassDEP announced that cleanup activities at the Former General Chemical site on Leland Street in Framingham would be put on hold due to the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency. In that announcement, MassDEP also stated its intent to re-start cleanup actions in the Spring of 2021. On March 11, 2021, MassDEP hosted a virtual public meeting to provide the community with an update on the timeline for the installation and operation of a thermal remediation system at the former General Chemical Site. This update provides a status of the cleanup activities that are taking place.

Starting in early March 2021, the equipment and supplies necessary to build the system were delivered to the property, and various actions were completed to prepare the Site for system installation.

- The Site was secured with new locks to limit site access, and security cameras were installed.
- The existing metal fence along the northerly property boundary was replaced with a vinyl-coated chain link fence for voltage mitigation purposes.
- The locations for subsurface infrastructure were surveyed, and underground utilities were marked out using Dig Safe and existing site records.
- A ground-penetrating radar survey was performed by a contractor prior to subsurface installations to identify any potential unknown buried utilities or structures in the treatment areas.

From mid-March through mid-April, the subsurface components of the treatment system have been installed in the two areas in which thermal treatment will be implemented.

- A licensed contractor drilled 27 boreholes spaced 16 feet apart.
- Subsurface electrodes and vapor recovery wells were then installed into the boreholes, along with four temperature monitoring points and three vacuum monitoring points.
- Two groundwater wells have been installed immediately upgradient of the thermal treatment areas as a precautionary measure and will only be pumped if the groundwater velocity entering the treatment zones is higher than anticipated, as the cooler groundwater would reduce the effectiveness of thermal treatment on the contaminants of concern.
- This week, the ground surface of the treatment area will be covered by a spray-foam cap to insulate the ground and prevent any potential shock-hazards to foot traffic. The spray-foam cap will be covered with a waterproof PVC liner.

Going forward, the work at the property will become more visible as the construction begins on the surface components of the treatment system.

- The vapor and liquid treatment systems will be installed inside a Conex® container. The treatment system for contaminated vapors includes two filters filled with granular activated carbon .
- A condenser will be installed upstream of the carbon filters.
- A blower with noise-reducing enclosure will be installed following the condenser to push the contaminated vapor through the two carbon filters.
- The treatment system for contaminated liquids, including an oil/water separator, will be installed upstream of the carbon filter. Similar to the vapor treatment system, two carbon filters will be incorporated into the liquid treatment process to treat condensate.
- If the groundwater wells need to be activated during operation of the thermal treatment system, the groundwater will be consolidated into this aqueous waste stream for discharge into the MWRA sewer system.
- MassDEP and its contractors are working with MWRA to obtain the necessary sewer discharge permit.
- The aboveground piping and connections associated with the water and wastewater connections will be installed.
- Installation of the power drop, which will provide the electricity necessary to run the system, is underway. Once the power drop is completed, signs will be posted in English, Spanish and Portuguese along the fence to warn residents and workers in the area that high voltage is in use at the property.
- A temporary fence will be placed along the fence line with the Wilson Elementary School property to keep children away from the General Chemical fence.

While there is a significant amount of work still to be completed, we are currently on track to have the cleanup system start by the end of June.

If you have any questions please contact Steve Johnson (978-694-3350 or [Stephen.Johnson@mass.gov](mailto:Stephen.Johnson@mass.gov)), or Chris Pyott (978-694-3353 or [Christopher.Pyott@mass.gov](mailto:Christopher.Pyott@mass.gov)).