

NEWHALL REMEDIATION PROJECT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Purpose:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed this plan to inform and to seek input from the Hamden community, especially the Newhall neighborhood, on proposed steps that will be taken to investigate and remediate contamination in the Newhall Remediation Project site. The public will be encouraged to ask questions and make comments on proposals of how to proceed with clean-up of waste disposal throughout all phases of the project. DEP will consider community concerns when it approves key actions necessary to investigate and remediate the site. *(NOTE: Remediate means any or all of the following - the removal of harmful soil and/or objects, covering contaminated waste so people can't come in contact with it or relocating people if the other choices aren't practical.)*

Principles:

Underlying all strategies and actions is the belief that the Newhall Street Neighborhood has the right to know about issues that affect their health and welfare and plans to remove and/or make harmless existing pollution conditions in their neighborhood. This public involvement plan has been developed with the following principles:

- Access to information: A record of all public meetings will be kept. Technical documents will be placed in locations available to the community.
- Clarity: Scientific information and regulatory procedures will be presented in terms understandable to the public.
- Responsiveness: All questions by the public will be answered in a timely manner.
- Multi-level communication: A variety of methods will be used to reach out to and hear from the public. Newsletters, direct mail, community meetings, website and stories in the media will be employed. DEP staff will be accessible by telephone, mail, community office, e-mail and one on one meetings.
- Timeliness: The public will receive adequate notice of meetings, and meetings will be scheduled at a time and place that is convenient and comfortable. Adequate time to review materials will also be provided.
- Coordination: Good communication among all concerned agencies and community organizations will be critical to the success of the process.

Key Steps in the Process:

DEP will carry out its duties as a state agency charged with upholding environmental laws and standards by following a process that has key decision points. Before taking action at critical steps, DEP will consult with the community, where the public will be encouraged to ask questions and make comments. The key action steps are listed below. For each of these steps DEP must approve action **after** public comment.

- 1. The Scope of Work for additional investigation of the site** (*After the consent order was signed, each responsible party performing work and DEP defined the exact geographical limits of the investigation – what methods were used to determine where and how extensive the contamination is – as well as a schedule to complete the investigation.*) **COMPLETED 2004**
- 2. The Comprehensive Investigation Report and the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for each portion of the site** (*Once the geographical limits and methods of investigation are agreed upon, the site area will be thoroughly examined, the full extent of the contamination is known and a plan of action on how to remediate the area is made.*)
- 3. The detailed plans and schedule for implementing the approved remedial actions** (*DEP will work with the responsible party to make sure the remedial action plan will be comprehensive – all contamination will be removed, made inaccessible and/or properties will be bought and people relocated. DEP will consider a range of alternatives based on the findings of the investigation, community comments and neighborhood impact.)*
- 4. The Plan for long term monitoring of the remedy** (*DEP will have a plan in place to watch the site for evidence of contamination problems in the future and make sure the chosen remedy was effective*)
- 5. Final Remedial Action Report** (*This is a final report that documents the clean up that occurred.*)

Elements of the Plan:

The Public Involvement Plan has many elements to involve and inform the public in the remediation process for the Newhall neighborhood in a meaningful way. DEP will be accessible to the public, share information in a complete and understandable manner and record and respond to public comments and concerns. Specific elements of the plan will include:

- 1. Newhall Advisory Committee:** DEP will work with the Newhall Advisory Committee, a committee comprised of stakeholders, a majority who will be residents of the Newhall community, to provide advice and recommendations to the Connecticut DEP on issues related to the clean up of the Newhall site. This committee will provide input to DEP about: (1) the contamination problems and the effects on Newhall residents, (2) preferences about options for cleaning up the contamination, and (3) potential impacts of cleanup options to the community so that DEP can consider the range of factors important to the community prior to reaching clean-up decisions. DEP will hire a neutral facilitator who will work with the

- committee to help resolve problems, mediate conflicts, and assist the group in coming to closure on important issues and milestones
2. **Public Meetings:** In 2005 DEP will organize and conduct public meetings that are linked to significant project milestones. A minimum of three meetings will be held as follows: May: discussion of the results of the investigation of residential properties; June: discussion of the results of the investigation of Hamden Middle School, Rochford Field and Mill Rock Park; additional public meetings will be held in the fall of 2005 to discuss clean up options. The meetings will provide an opportunity for the community to learn about and comment on the status of the project. Responsible parties will be asked to prepare presentations for public meetings and submit to DEP for review one week in advance of the public meeting.
 3. **Document Review:** A repository of documents on the project will be created and maintained at the Town of Hamden's central library (Miller Library), Whitneyville Branch Library and the Newhall Community Office at the Keefe Center. The project's website, www.newhallinfo.org, will also post project documents. However, the large file size of maps and graphics, prevent complete versions of technical documents to be posted on the website.
 4. **Document Summaries:** To make the content of technical documents understandable to the public, DEP will summarize key points in meaningful terms to the general public.
 5. **Newsletters, Flyers:** DEP, with assistance from other agencies and the Public Involvement Team, will prepare and mail project updates on approximately a quarterly basis describing the activities taking place on the project.
 6. **Project Website:** A website, www.newhallinfo.org, has been developed to provide comprehensive information and the latest developments on the project.
 7. **Mailing List:** DEP will develop and maintain a mailing list of all properties within and immediately surrounding the project site, and interested parties including, but not limited to, government officials - and members of the Hamden community. The list will be used to distribute newsletters, fact sheets, notice of meetings and other project mailings.
 8. **Community Office:** DEP will support a community office at the Keefe Community Center open during the day and evening hours. This office will provide a place for the Newhall community to come to get information on the project. The office will have all project documents, maps and up to date information on the status of the project.
 9. **Public Participation Coordinator:** DEP will hire a coordinator who will assist the department in carrying out the project's public participation plan. The coordinator will organize public meetings, produce summaries of project documents, newsletters, develop a project mailing list and develop and manage the website and public repositories.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Department of Environmental Protection

DEP has two roles. As a government agency that regulates environmental standards, it is responsible for determining if the investigation of the contamination is adequate and for approving plans to remediate the site. A second role is to make sure that the public is informed about the project and that community concerns are identified and taken into consideration before granting approval on remediation plans. Therefore, DEP will be responsible for:

1. Hiring a public involvement coordinator to assist DEP in implementing this plan.
2. Organizing and holding the public meetings.
3. Preparing summary documents and project updates.
4. Providing a facilitator for and attending meetings of the Newhall Advisory Committee.
5. Maintaining a mailing list of all interested members of the community.
6. Maintaining the public information repositories.
7. Creating and maintaining an internet website, www.newhallinfo.org
8. Assisting in the development of educational outreach opportunities for the public related to ongoing work at the site.
9. Providing adequate prior notice of all public meetings.
10. Responding to all written comments submitted to DEP directly, and working with the responsible parties and their technical consultants to answer technical questions submitted.
11. Making all final decisions regarding the investigation and remediation of the Newhall Street neighborhood site.

The Town of Hamden, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority and Olin Corporation (Respondents)

It is each Respondent's responsibility to complete the investigation of a portion of the site, evaluate remedial alternatives, propose a remedial action plan and, after the DEP has approved a plan, implement a remedy for each Respondent's portion of the site. Each Respondent will therefore:

1. Attend and participate in public meetings. At key steps in the investigation and remediation process each Respondent or its technical consultant will present to the community its proposals for investigating its portion of the site, summarize the remedial action alternatives and describe its proposal for a preferred remedial action in clear, accessible language that the general public can understand. Respondents shall submit to DEP presentation material at least one week in advance of the public meeting and the Respondent will prepare revisions as needed.
2. At the request of DEP, attend meetings to answer specific questions or discuss specific issues about the project.
3. Participate in the Newhall Advisory Committee as an ex officio, not as a committee member. As an ex officio, Respondents will answer questions and not have a voice in the Committee's decision making process. Respondents will attend all NAC meetings, unless the NAC asks Respondents not to attend.
4. Submit to DEP for prior review all communications to Newhall residents that has information concerning testing results, remedial actions or clean-up options.
5. Provide comments to DEP on all key steps in the Investigation and Remediation Process for the entire site.
6. At the request of DEP, respond in writing to specific questions or comments from the public regarding each Respondent's portion of the project.
7. Provide sufficient copies of the documents required by the Consent Order for the public information repositories, state and local health departments and technical consultants associated with the project as deemed necessary by DEP.

Schedule:

1. Newhall Advisory Committee will meet the third Thursday evening of the month at the Keefe Community Center. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.
2. Public Meetings. In 2004 a quarterly schedule of meetings was conducted beginning in January. In 2005 meetings will be scheduled at significant project milestones. Public meetings are scheduled for May, June and the fall 2005.
3. Public Information Repositories and Website: DEP will place documents, including copies of the consent order and recent investigation reports, at the indicated public information repositories. Materials will be added to the repositories, and website content will be updated as needed.
4. Newsletters/Project Updates: A quarterly publication will be mailed four times each year.

Revisions to the Public Involvement Plan:

Every six months, DEP's public involvement coordinator, in consultation with members of the Newhall Advisory Committee and the responsible parties, will assess the effectiveness of the Public Involvement Plan and recommend any changes to improve it.

Revised 1/05