

8/27/20 - Update from Lawra Dodge, President, Excel Environmental Resources, Inc.

The Phase 4 soil borings and monitoring well installation was completed yesterday, it went an additional day because of problems with the drill rig (it broke down Tuesday afternoon) but also because NYSDEC/NYSDOH requested Langan to conduct 7 additional soil borings around the previously identified concentrations of mercury in soil in order to get a more accurate determination of the extent of mercury impacts. The additional soil borings will be shown on the Daily Field Reports posted on the NYSDEC project website (<http://250bcp.com>).

I am very pleased that the agencies directed this additional work and that the soil samples collected for analysis mirror the depth interval (2-4 feet below grade) where the highest mercury concentrations within the footprint of the Former Thermometer Factory were previously identified during the Phase 3 soil boring program. These additional data will hopefully complete soil quality delineation and aid in the evaluation of remedial action work scopes and costs.

There were no air quality issues of any kind during the Phase 4 soil borings, including during the additional 7 soil borings conducted yesterday to further delineate the mercury concentrations in soil. All CAMP readings for mercury, VOCs and dust were well within the project-specific action levels.

All of the drilling activities are now complete and the only field work remaining is Phase 5, collection of groundwater samples for laboratory analysis which is scheduled to begin this coming Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. NYSDEC/NYSDOH asked both Tom Fusillo (environmental consultant for The Blue School) and I if we agreed that Langan can proceed with groundwater sampling before the soil analytical results from Phases 3 and 4 are received, evaluated and discussed because those data have no bearing on the groundwater sampling and analytical work scope. Both Tom and I agreed with the agencies, especially because conducting the groundwater sampling now completes the intrusive field activities that are currently envisioned and does so before the start of school.

After all of the data are in hand, there is still a possibility that some additional field work may be required to complete delineation or to aid the human health risk evaluation but we won't know that for several weeks. Should it be determined that any additional intrusive field activity is warranted, HHC and Langan are committed to doing that work when the schools are closed.

So NYSDEC will post the Daily Field Reports and the CAMP air monitoring data on the project website and the groundwater sampling proceeds on Monday. Brian Ehalt of my staff will be onsite Monday morning to verify that the work is proceeding in strict accordance with the RIWP and to verify air quality but he will likely only stay a half day, unless there is an issue of concern. The work involves opening the wells, verifying air quality inside the well itself, purging water from the wells into drums for future disposal, and collection of groundwater samples.

Langan has not indicated the duration of the field activity but it will likely be a one or two day event---it depends on how quickly the wells recharge and how many field staff Langan uses to conduct the work. Hopefully they will have two field staff and will be able to complete the work in one day.