



Department of Environmental Protection

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Former General Chemical Site Update 133-135 Leland St., Framingham June 4, 2021

In a memorandum posted to MassDEP's on-line file viewer on May 12, 2021¹, MassDEP provided a status update through mid-April 2021 on the installation of a thermal remediation system at the former General Chemical property at 133-135 Leland Street in Framingham. This update summarizes progress made on the project since that time.

From mid-April through May, work has been focused on installation of the surface components of the thermal remediation system. This work is ongoing and is on schedule to be completed by June 14 when system startup testing will begin. The goal of the startup testing is to ensure that the system is operating as designed. Consistent with the April update, this work includes the following activities.

- The vapor and liquid treatment systems are being installed inside a Conex® container. The treatment system for contaminated vapors will include two filters filled with granular activated carbon.
- A condenser is being installed upstream of the carbon filters.
- A blower with noise-reducing enclosure is being 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, is being 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 the aqueous waste stream for discharge into the MWRA sewer system.
- 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. The pad has been constructed and the transformer was recently delivered to the Site.
- A Contingency Plan has been developed to outline what actions will be taken at the Site to protect the surrounding community and secure the system in the event of an emergency.

During this time, MassDEP and its contractors also continued to work with MWRA to obtain the necessary sewer discharge permit. The final permit application, when complete, including all the attachments listed below, will be uploaded to eDEP, along with the MWRA permit.

- A Sewer Use Discharge Permit Application has been submitted to MWRA for review.

¹ <http://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/fileviewer/Rtn.aspx?rtn=3-0019174>

- A Treatability Study is being completed to ensure that the liquid effluent treatment system reduces contaminant concentrations in compliance with MWRA discharge limits. Once complete, this will also be submitted to MWRA for review.
- The MWRA Sewer Use Discharge Permit will be issued, and the connection to the MWRA sewer system secured, prior to system startup.

Groundwater samples have recently been collected from the treatment zone and from the upgradient groundwater control wells to determine baseline groundwater quality prior to the cleanup activities. PFAS compounds were included in the parameters tested. Massachusetts has established a drinking water standard of 20 parts per trillion for six PFAS compounds combined, referred to as “PFAS6”. Laboratory results show elevated levels of PFAS6 in the samples collected well above this value. The PFAS data was provided to TRS to determine the following:

- Will PFAS compounds detected in groundwater of the treatment zone be vaporized by the Electrical Resistance Heating process that will be used at the site?
Answer: No; the temperature to boil PFAS compounds would need to be 350-400 degrees Centigrade, whereas the ERH system is going to heat the groundwater to 100 degrees Centigrade.
- If PFAS gets into the aqueous streams, will the current treatment system remove them?
Answer: Yes; The treatment system will be designed to remove PFAS6 in compliance with MWRA permit requirements.
- Will the thermal treatment result in an increase in the concentration of PFAS in the downgradient surface water stream that flows into Course Brook?
Answer: No; MassDEP does not expect concentrations of contaminants will increase in surface water due to the thermal treatment; however, surface water samples will be collected monthly from June through December 2021 from the surface water stream and analyzed for both PFAS and chlorinated solvents to confirm this expectation.

Going forward, the following activities are scheduled to be completed in June 2021.

- During the first week of June soil vapor monitoring points will be installed surrounding the treatment zone, and in the basements of several nearby residential homes, to ensure that contaminated vapors are not migrating away from the treatment area.
- During the second week of June the soil vapor points will be sampled, along with the indoor air of nearby homes, to obtain baseline data prior to testing and startup of the remedial system.
- 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.
- All groundwater monitoring wells within and in the general vicinity of the treatment zone will be decommissioned by filling them with grout.
- Prior to activation of the power drop, 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.
- Prior to activation of the treatment system, a Site meeting will be conducted including representatives of MassDEP, Aptim, TRS and City Department staff to discuss system operations and actions that will be taken in the event of an emergency to protect residents in the surrounding community. On the same day, a Site Health & Safety meeting will also be held with abutting residents and contractors at 155 Leland Street to discuss the thermal treatment system.
- System startup testing is scheduled to start on June 14 and run through June 25th.
- System operation is scheduled to begin on June 28th and run through October 1st.

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