

Important Information Regarding Environmental Study Results

As you are aware, our community has an opportunity to build a new PreK-12 school with the State of Ohio providing 25 million dollars towards our project. Issue 9 on the May 4th ballot will raise the rest of the funds to build the new Pre-K through 12th grade school. By combining all of our schools into one new and efficient building, the district will reduce operating costs by 3 million dollars a year. The new school will be on Cooper Road between Miami Avenue and Rt. 50, the same location of the once proposed Wal-Mart and the former location of the Village of Cleves water wells.

Over the years, there has been speculation regarding the safety of this property. Some of the concerns that have been raised include: Is it in the flood plain? Does it have any chemical contamination? Does it have any fly ash? When the District began looking at this site as a possible location for a new school, we pursued third party environmental testing of the property. Although the current owner of the property had it tested prior to his purchase and Wal-Mart had its own testing done, the School District felt it necessary to have its own testing completed. Nothing is more important than the safety of our children and community so the site was tested again.

The Payne Firm was hired to perform Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental testing. The lengthy and technical results can be found on the district's website at www.threeriversschools.org or you can watch the videotaped board meeting from April 13, 2010, and see the actual presentation from the company that did the testing. Since many people prefer the summary and feel they do not possess the technical knowledge to translate these reports, here are the main bullet points from the comprehensive study.

- There were no concentrations of any hazardous materials detected in the soil samples obtained from the footprint of the proposed school (including fly ash).
- There is a small area of soil where the bus garage will be built that has "petroleum staining". It is where the current owner has above ground fuel tanks and therefore can be expected. It is isolated to *only* one area and is manageable. The identified area requires limited excavation of the soil (1-3 feet deep), confirmatory sampling and then disposal. The Payne Firm confirmed that this work is minimal, routine and would take only 2-3 days.
- The ground water beneath the former Cleves Water Works well fields was **not impacted** by the Chevron refinery that closed in 1986. Cleves Water Works opted to move their well field in 2001 due to concerns about limitations for future expansion.
- The site where the school will be built has been raised out of the flood plain and consists of stable fill material. The architect recommended that the footprint of the school be raised an additional two feet prior to construction for "additional insurance", however the additional two feet is not necessary to meet any local, state, or federal requirement. The cost for raising the footprint two feet higher has already been factored into the overall project totals.

I hope that this has helped alleviate some of the concerns. The company that did the environmental testing presented the results at the Board Meeting held on April 13, 2010, and, again, you may read the highlights of the board meeting from the board minutes, view the presentation which is a part of the videotaped board meeting (come to the board office to do so), read the full report on the district website, or contact me via e-mail at rbohannon@three-rivers.org or phone me at 513-941-6400.

Thank you,

Dr. Rhonda Bohannon