



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contaminated Soils to Remain After Clean-up Unless Plan is Changed

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network's expert identifies many inadequacies
of Hamilton Township site remediation plan

Hamilton Township, NJ, - Soils contaminated with lead and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and an un-lined, open dump have not been fully mapped and delineated, yet the property owner wants to proceed with cleanup. Long-time property owner, the Italian America Sportsman's Club, hired a License Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) Of Record to assess the site and prepare a site remediation cleanup plan. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) hired its own LSRP to assess that plan and provide comment and recommendations.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, said “an insufficient and partial cleanup of this site is a violation of the public trust not to mention leaving people and the environment potentially exposed to future contamination.” “There are going to be 52 homes built here with children playing in the back yards, foundations and pools dug, and family gardens all of which will drain to the Crosswicks Creek and then on to the Delaware River where 17 million people get there drinking water” van Rossum said.

DRN’s consultant, Mike Meriney of Excel Environmental Resources, Inc., states that the Sportsman’s Club’s proposed remediation plan “fails to meet the protection of public health and safety and the environment.” That objective, Meriney states, is the LSRP’s “highest priority in the performance of professional services.”

The Italian American Sportsman’s Club plan also fails to test for other likely contaminants specified in the ITRC guidance including Antimony, Copper, Tin, Zinc, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Nickel, and Mercury. The initial data collected from soil samples thus far confirmed lead contamination at 44,000mg/kg, or over 100 times above NJDEP limits.

The Sportsman’s Club’s plan fails to fully characterize and delineate the full extent where the contaminants from shot guns and the clay pigeons, which are known sources of lead, PAHs and other contaminants, now permeate the soils. Distribution of those contaminants is well-documented from other small arms firing range sites nationwide. In fact, the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) and US EPA,

based on nationwide experiences at cleaning up these types of trap shooting facilities, has technical and regulatory guidelines for the characterization and remediation of soils at closed small arms firing ranges. This guidance specifically details strategies to determine appropriate soil sampling locations, frequency and analysis. Had the Sportsmans Club LSRP followed USEPA's recommended guidance,, a significantly greater number of soil sample locations (over 2000) for analysis across a larger area on this site should have been collected rather than selecting only the 300 sampling locations in limited areas on the property conducted by the Sportsman's Club's LSRP.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and neighbors had requested Hamilton Township and NJDEP require the Italian American Sportsman's Club conduct their investigation pursuant to the ITRC guidance, the Township proceeded to give final site approval for the 52 homes and NJDEP remains silent.

Adjacent resident have been attending and speaking out about the proposed cleanup for years. Adjacent property owner Mark Meara stated "my neighbors and I have young children and we are very concerned with the levels of contamination in the soil because this site borders our backyards." "Over the years, we have been told that the contamination was limited to just a small area on the site, that there was may be lead and that the LSRP of record has no further concerns about PAH's on this property" said Meara. "That's not even vaguely close to reality" said Meara.

The American Italian Sportsman's Club's remediation cleanup plan has been submitted to Hamilton Township for approval. New Jersey DEP also received a copy of the plan, but under new Site Remediation Program regulations, the NJDEP no longer conducts a technical review and comment of the plan but only performs an administrative check of the paperwork in order to process and log the submission into their database. Adequacy of the cleanup plan is left up to the developer's consultant. Area residents have asked the USEPA to step in, but have been told that the LSRP of record and NJDEP know what to do.

Excel Environmental Resources' comments have been forwarded to the Italian American Sportsmans Club and their LSRP. No response has been received to date.

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