North Star

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River Clean-Up

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will be backfilled with clean soil and vegetation will be restored.

This month the EPA also is drilling five additional test wells along the river and on property at the Centredale Manor and Brook Village apartment complexes for the elderly. Groundwater and soil samples have been collected from 10 test wells installed last winter. Samples from the new wells will help officials chart patterns of contamination.

"Over time we will figure out the groundwater flow to understand where contamination may migrate," Ms. Krasko said.

Accordingly, area residents and passersby on occasion will see two drilling rig trucks along the river and workers in white protective suits. This clothing, the EPA explains, is required by federal law and does not signal that persons in the general area are exposed to a health threat.

The EPA also is studying fish, turtles, eels and frogs from the Woonasquatucket, and private contractors traveling in motorboats on the river are collecting samples through this month.

"We want to find out what impact there is on wildlife downstream from the Centredale Manor and Brook Village sites," Ms. Krasko explained. "Do we see, for example, the frog species we would expect to see?"

EPA officials report that they continue to seek potentially responsible parties (PRP's) to fund clean-up operations along the Woonasquatucket according to Superfund liability statutes. Ms. Krasko said these statutes extend to generators and transporters of waste, plus property owners and operators.

To date, Ms. Krasko said, the EPA has issued two unilateral administrative orders for clean-up work to five PRP's: Emhart Industries, Inc., New England Container Company, Cer[illegible] Manor Associates, Brook Village Associates, and Crown-Metro, Inc.

In a recent newsletter, the EPA reports that it has sent formal information requests to another eight companies and two military bases that it says may have sent waste to the site before the early 1970s.

At Superfund Site: Clean-Up Continues

EPA receives design plans for restoring Allendale Dam

By Terri Bozigian

Drilling rigs, monitoring wells, collection of soil and fish samples for testing: It's summertime on the Woonasquatucket River Superfund Site, and federal and state agencies continue to direct clean-up operations under way for two years now.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received design plans on Monday for restoration of the Allendale Dam prepared by Loureiro Engineering Associates, said EPA project manager Anna Krasko.

EPA officials will host a public meeting at Town Hall later this month or in early August to discuss the plans, she said.

In addition to restoring the dam, the EPA clean-up plan includes removing 2,500 cubic yards of soil and sediments containing the suspected carcinogen dioxin and other contaminants from up to15 or more residential properties alongside the Allendale and Lymansville ponds and near the dam, Ms. Krasko said. These soils will be treated and disposed of at an off-site facility.

Loureiro Engineering also will perform this work, and has spent recent weeks obtaining access from property owners along the two ponds. Once excavated, properties

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EPA Says Use River Responsibly

Summer's outdoor recreational activities are in full swing, and the Woonasquatucket River may be used within limits, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials say.

The EPA issues the following guidelines:

- Obey warning signs posted along the river.
- It's okay to walk, run, or bicyle along the river, and to paddle a canoe or kayak on the river.
- Do not swim or wade in the river.
- Do not eat fish, turtles, eels or plants from the river.
- Avoid contact with exposed river sediments.
- Wash thoroughly after any contact with the river water or sediment.