

Public Notice

This public notice is hereby issued pursuant to the "Early Notice" requirement set forth in the Groundwater Supply Protection section of the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations (310 CMR 22.21).

The Town of Holden is preparing a MassDEP Request for Site Exam and Pumping Test Proposal for a proposed water supply that would be located at 156 Princeton Street on land owned by Electronic Circuits Corporation (ECC). The proposed pumping test will be conducted using a well field consisting of six to eight 2.5-inch test wells. Two existing industrial supply wells (EPW-1 and EPW-2) that were used by ECC to supply the operations with non-contact cooling water will be incorporated into the pumping test. The proposed withdrawal will be between 300 and 400 gallons per minute. The final withdrawal rate will be determined once the pumping test is conducted.

Background

ECC Corporation manufactured printed circuit boards at the Holden facility from the mid 1960's until April 2005 at which time manufacturing operations ceased. Prior to that time, the building had a variety of uses including mattress factory, garage, textile mill that date as far back as the early 1900's. Since cessation of manufacturing operations, the facility been decommissioned and the building is being cleaned for eventual sale or long-term lease.

Until October 1983, waste water generated from the manufacturing process was discharged into two lagoons located immediately west of the building while non-contact cooling water was discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Because the facility is listed as a RCRA (Resource Conservation Recovery Act) Large Quantity Generator (LQG) of hazardous waste, the lagoons were mandated to be closed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under their RCRA Program, which, in the State of Massachusetts, is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The principal constituents of the waste material included waste acidic rinse water principally containing volatile organic compounds, copper and lead. The lagoons were closed in October 1985 when the lagoon sludges were excavated and transported to a disposal facility. When post-excavation confirmation samples collected from the sidewalls and base of the lagoons indicated that residual contaminant levels were with acceptable regulatory limits, the lagoons were filled with clean soil and capped with a clay soil.

There exists a contaminated plume of ground water associated with past manufacturing operations, which contains a number of chlorinated volatile organic compounds that are associated with prior manufacturing processes. Until April 2005 the plume was effectively controlled and was being remediated by daily use of the industrial supply wells. During the 17 year semi-annual sampling period from October 1992 through November 2004, total volatile organic compound (TVOC) levels in ground water decreased from over 2,000 ug/l to approximately 250 ug/l as a result of pumping the wells. Based upon recent testing of the two wells in March 2009, TVOC levels have increased at EPW-1 to 678 ug/l.

Pumping Test Proposal

The Request for Site Exam and New Source Request describes all of the site investigations and sampling that have been conducted since 1990. The application describes how the pumping test will be performed and how water level and water quality data will be evaluated. Because VOC-contaminated ground water will be pumped and mixed with uncontaminated ground water, a conceptual design of the proposed VOC treatment system for the supply is discussed. A complete treatment system design will be prepared upon receipt of the water quality and pumping test data and will be included with the pumping test report.

The New Source Application is available for review at the following location:

Department of Public Works
Office of James Shuris
1196 Main Street
Holden, MA 01520

In accordance with 310 CMR 22.21, the thirty (30) day MassDEP review period comment period commences with this public notice. Interested parties may submit written comments to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Resource Protection, 627 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01628.