

B6 TELEGRAM & GAZETTE THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2004

EPA will put money, effort behind Templeton yard cleanup

By Shirley Barnes
CORRESPONDENT

TEMPLETON — Residents of the land surrounding the former Temple Stuart factory property in Baldwinville learned that work will start soon on removing polychlorinated biphenyls discovered in their neighborhood.

Michael S. Barry, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on-scene coordinator for the cleanup and restoration of the properties, told a large group of residents Tuesday night that 35 yards have been tested and 28 of those yards will require soil removal during the next few months. Tests of these properties indicated concentrations of PCBs above the 2 parts per million that are considered acceptable. Many are as high as 7 ppm.

Mr. Barry said the PCB contamination was believed to have been airborne as a result of long-ago open pit burning of materials containing PCBs. Some later concentrations were the result of people dumping ash from the incineration of paints and other finishes at the furniture plant.

Testing has not been completed for all homes. They will be tested by sometime this fall, he said.

Crews are out testing some homes on Elm Street. A U.S. Coast Guard crew has been out in the area around Temple Stuart photographing yards that are scheduled for cleanup and restoration, Mr. Barry said. A botanist will work with the photographs to inventory the yards where soil removal will take place.

"It is our intention to restore the yards as far as possible. Naturally we cannot replace a 100-year-old tree, but a new tree will be planted. Some of the PCB removal will require work around the base of trees and they must be removed," he said.

Polluted soil will be excavated and the area backfilled with clean soil. A layer of loam between 4 and 6 inches will be placed over the soil, and the lawns will be replaced through hydroseeding.

The project will cost approximately \$4 million for the resi-

dential cleanup. The EPA goal is to have the yards restored within six months. However if winter weather prevents completion, work will continue in the spring, Mr. Barry said.

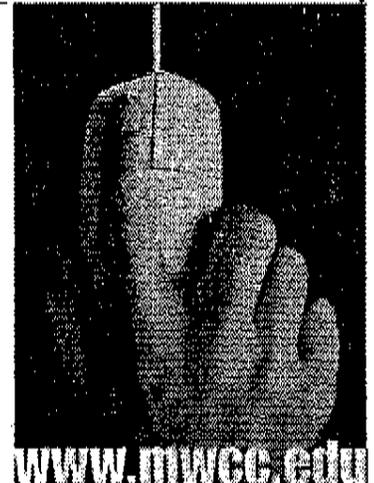
Residents expressed concern that the project would leave yards not completely seeded over during the winter, with resulting washouts and mud instead of lawns.

The project will be done on a

yard-by-yard basis, with excavation followed immediately with restoration in order not to leave a mess open during the process, according to Angela Bonarrigo, EPA community involvement coordinator. The completed project will require between four and nine weeks of work on each yard. About 40 people will be involved in the work, with eight to 14 working at a time, excavating, sampling, documenting and restoring.

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