

## Cleanup about finished for winter

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TEMPLETON — The environmental cleanup around the former Temple-Stuart factory is ready to shut down for the winter and will remain on hold until around mid-March.

According to Michael Barry, the on-site coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency, said digging stopped Thursday and after some filling, this week around Winchester and Bridge streets, his crews will be off site for the rest of the winter.

"After we backfill the rest of the properties with sand, we'll be pretty much off site until mud season starts to abate," said Barry, estimating that the ground will be firm enough to begin work on several other properties around the same area behind the now silent factory.

To date, Barry said that his crews turn to CLEANUP, Page 4

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# Goal to have last 3,000 tons shipped out by end of month

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have removed about 5,000 tons of soil, which was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls from the Temple-Stuart facility. All the soil was trucked to ESMIL, a treatment facility in Loudon, N.H. With the digging done for the winter, Barry said that he hoped to have the remaining 3,000 tons of soil shipped out for treatment by the end of January.

"They have been removing about eight truckloads a day," Barry said. "If each truck holds about 30 tons that works out to about 100 truckloads in 12

or 13 work days. If they keep up that pace, we'll have it all out by the end of the month."

Barry said that 26 of the 28 yards scheduled for soil replacement were completed. One yard had an extensive garden that he said was not inventoried in time to work on it this fall. Through the course of the project, Barry said the EPA will replace the topsoil, the grass and any trees, shrubs or gardens destroyed by the digging. That lawn will be the first to be replaced in the spring, Barry said.

The other property owner declined

weeks, he said the level of contamination is lower in the second set.

PCB is a chemical that the EPA and the state Department of Environmental Protection believes was spread into the

soil when Temple-Stuart burned varnishes and other furniture oils that contained the compound. The EPA suspects it to be a carcinogen, though no clear link has been established. Long-term exposure to high levels of PCBs can cause chronic skin problems, according to the federal agency's Web site.

In October, Barry said that levels in

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— Michael Barry

participation, he said.

The phase of the project that will begin in the spring will replace yards that Barry's team sampled in October while excavation was ongoing for the first phase, and while the results will not be in Barry's hands for a couple of

residential yards surrounding the facility did not reach emergency levels, but "we take the contamination of people's yards very seriously."

The 26 properties the EPA has worked on surround the former factory on Winchester, Bridge, Holman, and Harris streets to the northwest of the building and on Winchester Road to the northeast.

"The residents continue to be very understanding and cooperative," said Barry. "It's a huge disruption to their lives."

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