To: Kluesner, Dave[kluesner.dave@epa.gov]
From: Debbie Mans
Sent: Mon 4/8/2013 2:48:46 PM
Subject: RE: Lyndhurst, North Arlington fields test negative for harmful levels of contamination

Thanks – wilkommen back! Do you have the Montclair State letter that was sent to EPA that you could please forward? Debbie

Deborah A. Mans, Baykeeper & Executive Director

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From: Kluesner, Dave [mailto:kluesner.dave@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 5:08 AM
To: Yeh, Alice; Wagner, Amelia; Karlen, Delmar; Butler, Elizabeth; Schaaf, Eric; Naranjo, Eugenia; Zachos, George; LaPadula, John; Olsen, Marian; Hick, Patricia; Basso, Ray; Flanagan, Sarah; Vaughn, Stephanie; Mugdan, Walter; Sy, William; abaptista@ironboundcc.org; acohen@hcdnnj.org; AKruger@verizon.net; cjohnston@ironboundcc.org; cmellon@ironboundcc.org; debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org; DelisleB@jcnj.org; Douglas Sarno; dyennior@msn.com; greenwoods@ci.newark.nj.us; jamespmack@jpm-llc.com; john@sustainablefox.com; jsamsonphd@gmail.com; jsphnardone@yahoo.com; jweiss@targetcoatings.com; kirk.barrett@manhattan.edu; lennyt22@gmail.com; mgreenberg@ironboundcc.org; MJusino-Iturralde@JerseyHistory.Org; PRCWATER@AOL.COM; rdougherty@citybloom.org; rrichards@njpac.org; spark07105@yahoo.com; TBAL5678@Yahoo.com; thomasr2@ci.newark.nj.us; tpietrykoski@pvsc.com
Subject: EPA: Lyndhurst, North Arlington fields test negative for harmful levels of contamination

EPA Sampling report: http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/pdf/soilsamp_report.pdf

Sampling report fact sheet:
http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/pdf/soilsamp_narlingtonlyndhurst_diamond.pdf

Diamond Alkali Web site http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/relateddocs.htm

EPA: Lyndhurst, North Arlington fields test negative for harmful levels of contamination

NorthJersey.com

April 2, 2013

By Meghan Grant

http://www.northjersey.com/news/201097801_EPA__Lyndhurst__North_Arlington_fields_test_negative_for_harmful_levels_of_contamination.html?page=all

Environmental officials have said "play ball," announcing the Environmental Protection Agency has cleared the baseball fields at Riverside County Park for use. Concerns about contamination from the river mud that overflowed onto the field by extensive Hurricane Sandy flooding prompted a hold to be placed on usage of the facilities until testing could be completed.

"I'm so happy that we were able to utilize our Little League fields and practice area down at the county park. We needed those fields desperately," said Parks and Recreation Commissioner Thomas DiMaggio.

Official results in writing from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were expected after Easter, but the EPA gave word over the phone that the fields were safe to use, the commissioner said.

The EPA released a report of the findings on samples taken from five sites in Lyndhurst and one in North Arlington. Evaluations of dioxins, furans and PCBs were conducted for hypothetic exposure to young children, adolescents ages 7 to 18 and adult outdoor workers, and for the first time, mercury was also tested, the report indicated.

Concentrations of total mean toxicity equivalent concentration in the soil at six locations either "fall below primary remediation goals" associated with the target risk range for carcinogens established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, specifically at the two fields between the two parking lots next to the pavilion, or "within" the target risk range, at the two Riverside baseball diamonds, crew boat field and North Arlington fields complex, the report indicated.

Conditions exceed a certain cancer risk benchmark at three sites to all three age categories and older people at a fourth site, the report read. Superfund cleanups should achieve between 10^4 to 10^6 carcinogenic risk range based on maximum exposure times for a person. Risks are defined as the likelihood of additional cancer cases. A 10^6 risk translates to one additional case is to be expected per 1 million exposed people. Findings at the four sites slightly exceeded the lower 10^4 benchmark.

Being within range in this case, near the low end, the risk is considered "acceptable," EPA spokesperson Elias Rodriguez said, adding the data presents" very little uncertainty."

Mercury and PCB concentration was also below hazard levels, Rodriguez said.

"Dioxins continue to be a risk driver at this site," the report read. Planned dredging and capping of the river mudflats this summer should help remediate this risk, the report added.

Additional sampling isn't planned and park soil cleanup actions aren't warranted at this point, the EPA concluded.

Local apprehension was that floodwaters carried contaminated sediment from mudflats from the Passaic River, classified as a Superfund site by the EPA, into the adjacent park. In response to residents' petitions, the EPA conducted sampling in February on the fields to test the levels of harmful chemicals. The mudflats are known to contain PCBs, mercury, DTT, heavy metals and dioxins from years of manufacturing along the river. An agency-approved clean up is scheduled for the riverbed next to the park this summer.

If analysis wasn't complete by the start of the season, the teams wouldn't have been permitted to use the fields, DiMaggio said. News came just days before the commencement of the Little League season.

Little League president Bob Laverty said he was glad to get the clearance but the news was a long time in coming.

Games were initially scheduled to begin on April 1. Due to the lack of results and the weather, the start date was pushed back to April 6.

Analyzing samples and validating results was a lengthy process, especially when it involves certain contaminates like dioxin, EPA spokesperson David Kluesner explained earlier.

Before the EPA's announcement, parents told league officials they wouldn't let their child play before being assured the fields were safe, Vice President Joe Gina said in February.

Fears over possible contamination from severe flooding prompted an earlier round of testing last year. EPA in conjunction with the township sampled field soil in January 2012 to see if Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee caused the contaminated sediment to migrate from the mudflats into the park.

While the EPA initially didn't schedule the new round of sampling following Sandy, however, local outcry prompted the agency to visit the park again this year.

STAFF PHOTO/MEGHAN GRANT / Water ponds in Riverside County Park a few days after Hurricane Sandy blew through Lyndhurst and neighboring North Arlington. Recently, Environmental Protection Agency officials announced that the athletic fields tested negative for harmful levels of contamination.