

October 8, 2009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Preliminary Assessment - Reported Landfill Site **Athletic fields not located on historic fill site**

Barton & Loguidice, a Syracuse-based environmental engineering firm, has made a preliminary assessment of the reported landfill site on Horseheads Central School District property. The firm has reviewed information and the site. Horseheads Central School District Superintendent Ralph Marino Jr., along with representatives of Barton & Loguidice presented their preliminary report to the Board of Education at their October 8 meeting.

The engineering firm's initial assessment of DEC's Hazardous Substance Waste Disposal Site Study listing indicates that HCSD athletic fields were not the focus of the historic investigations, and were never used for fill.

The prior studies resulting in the inclusion on the DEC list indicate that:

- The property subject to the listing is limited to the District's existing paved fueling station and unpaved materials storage yard adjacent to the bus garage (identified as Satellite #18).
- District Athletic Fields were not part of the study causing the DEC listing.
- District Athletic Fields were never disturbed for industrial use or waste disposal. Historic land use of the athletic fields is clear in the aerial photograph record of the school property. Aerial photographs were available from 1938, 1955, 1964, 1977, 1985, 1995 and 2002.
- The compounds identified at the fueling station site during the 1986 EPA Study are of relatively low level, are of limited mobility, and are typically found as background contaminants within urban and rural industrial environments.
- Prior studies concluded that the compounds detected were the result of runoff from the adjacent District parking lot.
- The district continues to work with DEC to review the entire record for the site. This will include whether further investigation of the fueling station lot is necessary.
- The district will conduct soil sampling to confirm there has been no impact from the fueling station lot to the athletic fields.

The Horseheads Central School District is committed to identifying the facts related to the prior investigations and studies resulting in the DEC list, whether there is any current concern on school district property, and efforts to remove the Satellite #18 lot from the DEC listing.

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