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FOR RELEASE **AFTER 8PM:**

Further testing shows no areas of concerns; firm believes site should be removed from DEC list

Further testing of the Horseheads Central School District fueling station parcel and athletic fields has confirmed no presence of viable waste source. Laboratory analysis of soils and groundwater at the site did not find any significant elevated compounds in the fueling station parcel or athletic fields.

Barton and Loguidice, the environmental engineering firm hired by the district to investigate the reported concerns, is recommending that the district submit a request to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to remove the property from the 1995 Hazardous Substance Waste Disposal Site Study.

The firm's investigation included the installation of 13 soil borings and four test pits on the fueling station parcel and nine soil borings on the football field, baseball field, soccer fields, and practice field. Here are the findings:

- Field instrument screening and visual observation of the soils showed no presence of solid or hazardous waste materials at the fueling station. The screening identified a small area with buried "hard fill" – brick, concrete, metal guard rail, and soda cans. Soil samples collected from the athletic fields were absent of such debris.
- In the eight separate soil samples collected from the fueling station borings and test pits, only one location exhibited compounds above DEC residential site thresholds. This sample was in the vicinity of the samples collected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1986. The 1986 report showed two samples of concern: one sample that was six to nine times higher than the DEC threshold and one slightly above the threshold. The results from the current study are similar to the lower results from the 1986 report.
- The EPA has concluded that these levels were not indicative of waste disposal at the site. All other compounds listed in the original report were either not detected or below the DEC's residential site clearance levels.
- Additionally, the firm collected six separate samples from the athletic fields. No compounds were detected above the DEC's residential site clearance levels.
- The firm collected three groundwater samples from the fueling station parcel, finding compounds that were significantly below DEC's groundwater quality standards.
- In addition, three groundwater monitoring points were installed at the fueling station.

According to Barton and Loguidice, the absence of waste debris and the benign levels of the few trace compounds warrant removal of the fueling station site from the DEC Hazardous Substance Site List. Additionally, no concerns have been identified at the athletic fields.

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