SITE CLEANUP
Former Henry Wood’s Sons Paint Factory
Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts

Wellesley College has been working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) toward a cleanup solution to the former paint factory site since the early 1980s.

Our Goals
- Protect public health and the environment
- Clean up the contamination
- Bring about a permanent solution

Cleanup Alternatives
Since early 1999, the College and DEP have been analyzing a variety of alternatives to clean up the lead and chromium contamination.

These include:
- No action (used for comparison only)
- Capping in place
- Installing seepage cutoff walls to prevent groundwater contamination
- Capping in a secure cell on-site
- Various soil treatment options
- Off-site disposal of contaminated soil and sediment
RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Focused on protection of public health, safety and the environment, the College recommended the following alternative to DEP, which involves:

- Excavating contaminated soil and sediment (an estimated 136,000 cubic yards) from the uplands, the southern end of Paintshop Pond, Upper Waban Brook and the Northern and Southern Wetlands.

- Treating approximately 20,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil using chemical reduction, which will convert hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium (the less toxic form); thus decreasing human health risks and leachable levels of hexavalent chromium.

- Creating an area of clean soil referred to as a “clean pad” in a portion of the Northern Wetland at an elevation above the water table.

- Consolidating the excavated soil and sediment on top of the “clean pad” in the Northern Wetland that will separate treated/contaminated materials from the water table.

- Capping the consolidated soil and sediment beneath a protective cover called an Engineered Barrier, consisting of several layers of clean soil and synthetic materials (see diagram below).

**Engineered Barrier**
The Engineered Barrier will protect groundwater and prevent the potential for exposure to humans or animals through direct contact, ingestion or inhalation of the contaminated materials.

**Treatment by Chemical Reduction**
Chemical treatment of some of the contaminated soil will decrease levels of the leachable hexavalent chromium, and reduce the potential for harm to human health and the environment.

**HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM**
Mobile, has potential to move through soil and water

**TRIVALENT CHROMIUM**
More stable, less likely to move through soil and water

Clean soil for the Engineered Barrier and pad will be excavated from uncontaminated areas adjacent to the Northern Wetland.
PROTECTING WORKERS & PUBLIC HEALTH

Throughout the cleanup, the College’s top priority is protecting the community and cleanup workers. A comprehensive program of health and safety measures will be implemented, to include:

- Installing fences around the work area
- Posting signs and blocking off areas near the work site, including closing the walking/jogging path along the northern shoreline of Lake Waban for the duration of cleanup.
- Installing and operating air monitoring stations
- Using dust suppression and control methods
- Ensuring that cleanup workers were appropriate protective gear

ATTENTION
Portions of the lake path will be closed during the cleanup of the contaminated site. Access to areas behind the fence is strictly prohibited.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE
For more information, contact 283-2788.

Preparing for Cleanup

The College and its contractors must take several steps to prepare the site for the actual cleanup. These include:

- Clear vegetation and trees from a 30-acre area of uplands and portions of Northern Wetland. Clearing will allow access to contaminated soil and sediment, as well as to clean soil, which will be used for the “clean pad” platform and as a source of clean soil for the engineered barrier.

- Move fish from Paintshop Pond to Lake Waban.

- Divert surface water from Paintshop Pond, to flow from Morses Pond culvert into Lake Waban. This will serve to dewater Paintshop Pond and Upper Waban Brook. Install sheet piling along the Southern Wetland shoreline and sump pumps to dewater portions of the wetlands.

Cleanup

Actual cleanup is expected to take approximately 14 months to complete. Cleanup work in the Northern and Southern Wetlands, the uplands, Waban Brook Channel and Paintshop Pond will include:

- Excavating contaminated soil and sediment
- Dewatering areas as necessary
- Hauling excavated material to consolidation area
- Grading and backfilling with clean fill where necessary

Other cleanup activities include:

- Chemically treating contaminated soils, to convert hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium (the less toxic form).
- Constructing Engineered Barrier to serve as a protective barrier over consolidated waste materials in Northern Wetland area.
Wetlands are an important natural resource. After the cleanup is complete, the College plans to replace the wetlands and make them larger by at least one acre. Completing the cleanup will include:

- Restoring the banks of Upper Waban Brook and Paintshop Pond.
- Restoring the Southern Wetland at the current location, backfilling the area with soil or peat, and then covering the area with a surface layer of wetland soil up to a foot thick. The wetlands will be re-vegetated with a variety of plants, including trees and shrubs.
- Expanding and largely replacing portions of the Northern Wetland in a new location along the eastern bank of Paintshop Pond.
- Rehabilitating Paintshop Pond Dam - repairing structure, gate and discharge channel.
- Removing water diversion systems, sheet piling and sump pumps, to allow water back into Paintshop Pond, Upper Waban Brook and the wetlands.
- Installing monitoring wells throughout work area to monitor groundwater quality.
- Cleaning and removing equipment installed for the cleanup.
**Benefits from Cleanup**

Implementing the College’s recommended alternative will provide a number of benefits.

- Eliminate risks to human health, safety, and the environment at the paint factory site
- Create recreational and athletic fields
- Reconstruct and enhance the existing walking and jogging path.
- Expand and restore wetlands and restore Paintshop Pond.

**Community Outreach**

Wellesley College is committed to keeping an open dialogue about the cleanup with both campus and area community members.

To date, the College has:

- Published six fact sheets
- Held Community Information Sessions, at Wellesley Town Hall and on campus
- Met with neighbors, interested citizens, students, faculty and staff
- Provided updated information on the site investigation and cleanup on the campus Electronic Bulletin Board and on the Web site (www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/About/paintshop.html)
The College hopes to start cleanup early in 2001 and complete it within approximately 14 months. To enable the cleanup to begin, the College is working to gain approval from several local, state and federal agencies.

### Necessary Approvals

While the DEP has approved the College's cleanup plan, a number of other approvals are needed before cleanup can actually begin. In August, the College filed an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF), in accordance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and published a legal advertisement, seeking public comment, in the Wellesley Townsman. The College has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that responds to comments on the ENF.

Below is a list of the required permits and approvals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit/Approval</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Application Submitted</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands Permit</td>
<td>Town of Wellesley Wetlands Protection Committee</td>
<td>September 2000</td>
<td>Permit approved in October 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Cleanup Alternative (3A)</td>
<td>Mass. DEP</td>
<td>April 2000</td>
<td>Approval received in October 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act</td>
<td>US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)</td>
<td>November 2000</td>
<td>Permit anticipated in February 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Permit (Site Plan Review &amp; Flood Plain/Water Supply Special Permit)</td>
<td>Town of Wellesley Zoning Board of Appeal</td>
<td>October 2000</td>
<td>Permit approved in October 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Historic Act Review</td>
<td>Mass. Historical Commission</td>
<td>October 2000</td>
<td>Memorandum of Agreement for documentation of historic site (former paint factory) and construction of commemorative plaque</td>
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<td>National Historic Preservation (Section 106) Review</td>
<td>Mass. Historical Commission/USACE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEPA Approval</td>
<td>Mass. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</td>
<td>EIR filed November 2000</td>
<td>30 day public comment period began November 22, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam Construction, Repair or Renewal Permit</td>
<td>Dept. of Environmental Management, Office of Dam Safety</td>
<td>November 2000</td>
<td>Permit anticipated in December 2000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We believe the approval and implementation of a safe, effective and extensive cleanup plan will benefit the College and local communities alike.