

Contractor to remove contaminants from Edgewater's Veterans Field

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EDGEWATER - Waterside Construction LLC, the company **suspected of bringing in tainted material** while cleaning up the contaminated Veterans Field, will remain the contractor on the project and pay to have the latest contaminants removed.

“I believe we need to work within the contract,” borough attorney Philip Boggia advised the **council during a special meeting** Wednesday. “Our experts are satisfied, at least at this point, that [the situation is] manageable and that all steps that need to be put in place have been put in place.”

Some residents **have called for the firing of the contractor**, but Boggia said that by having Waterside stay on and pay for the removal of the contaminants, the cleanup would take months. The alternative would be to sue the contractor for defaulting on work, which could lead to years of legal wrangling, he said.

The attorney also said the contract with Waterside includes a provision for the contractor to address improper materials brought onsite. “Defective work shall be made good; and unsuitable materials may be rejected,” states a clause in the contract.

“The contractor has acknowledged responsibility and is willing to pay the cost of whatever is required to remediate the situation,” Boggia said.

The municipality shut down Veterans Field, the borough’s premier park, in September 2011 after discovering polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and polychlorinated biphenyls in the ground.

Officials **hired Waterside**, a company owned by local developer Fred Daibes, to clean up and renovate the park, but **work stopped last month when “extremely elevated” levels of PCBs were detected again**. Waterside had imported crushed concrete from another site before the material had been tested as required, the borough’s environmental consultant said.

The borough administrator recently said that PCBs were found in a south and north parking lot and may have spread to other parts of the park. A few thousand cubic yards of material must be removed, he said.

Waterside has acknowledged it trucked in crushed concrete from Alcoa, an old aluminum plant on River Road. The site was cleaned up in the 1990s after PCBs were detected, but the state Department of Environmental Protection approved the use of materials from that site afterwards, representatives for Waterside said.

“The concrete was considered by everyone involved, including the [DEP], to not be regulated - i.e., it was clean,” said Rodger Ferguson, a licensed site remediation professional for Waterside. “Unfortunately, we have since learned otherwise. ... Our objective is to help develop a remedy that is protective of human health and environment and to address the contractual issues.”

While Waterside will remain as the general contractor on the project and pay for the cleanup, the actual removal of the latest contaminants will be done by another, licensed company, borough officials said.

At the start of the meeting, some residents questioned Waterside’s credibility and if the company should remain on the job.

“Why haven’t we gotten rid of Waterside?” asked Harlan Jamison, who lives down the street from the park.

Another resident said it would be more expedient to allow Waterside to complete the work than to start over with a new contractor.

“Let’s finish the field,” resident Jay Malakoff said.

The borough’s environmental consulting firm is awaiting additional test results. Once the scope of the contamination is identified - how wide and deep the PCBs have spread - TERMS Environmental Consulting Inc. will submit a work plan to the DEP. Pending approval, work will commence to remove the latest contaminants, officials said.

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- See more at:

http://www.northjersey.com/edgewater/Contractor_to_remove_contaminants_from_Edgewaters_Veteran_Field.html?page=all#sthash.7dmc8ImX.dpuf

