

# Edgewater replaces original firm hired to clean up park contamination

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EDGEWATER – The Borough Council on Wednesday night officially terminated its contract with Waterside Construction – the company it had hired to clean up Veterans Field but which instead brought new contaminants to the park – and named a new contractor to finish the work.

The decision came nearly a year after activity at the site halted last October, when officials learned that Waterside had trucked in material that contained polychlorinated biphenyls, a cancer-causing toxin.

This week's action also brought some relief to community members, who were alarmed after hearing at the last council meeting that the borough could bring back Waterside to complete the project. Though the council had previously declared that Waterside defaulted on the job, the borough had never officially terminated the contract.

Immediately after voting to terminate Waterside this week, the council named Enterprise Network Resolutions Contracting LLC its new contractor, and the borough's environmental consultant said work on the field could potentially resume in two weeks.

The new contractor will be tasked with removing 56,650 tons of contaminated soil or other material from the site, according to attorney Timothy Corrison, whose firm, Connell Foley, was retained as special counsel to the borough.

Enterprise Network, a Winslow-based company, was declared the lowest responsible bidder out of eight bids that the borough received and was awarded a contract for \$4.98 million, according to a resolution the council passed.

Veterans Field was closed to the public in fall 2011 after contaminants were discovered in the soil. Shortly after, the borough hired Waterside to remove the contaminants and

to renovate the park. But work stopped last fall after the company brought in tainted concrete.

Representatives for Waterside, which is owned by developer Fred Daibes, have repeatedly said the company wasn't aware at the time that the material was contaminated. Waterside also told the borough that TERMS Environmental Services, the borough's former consultant which oversaw the project, had approved Waterside's bringing in the concrete, Edgewater officials have said.

TERMS has denied it gave approval and has notified the borough of its intent to sue for alleged wrongful termination. The council fired TERMS in May, questioning how the firm allowed Waterside to slip past inspection.

The borough, in turn, is suing Waterside, other Daibes-owned entities, TERMS and others it believes are responsible for the additional contamination that was brought onto Veterans Field.

Daibes could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday night.

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