

**Beth Rivard**

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**Subject:** FW: Rennie Farm Project: Status Update

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**From:** Vicki Smith  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 9:38 AM  
**To:** Beth Rivard  
**Subject:** FW: Rennie Farm Project: Status Update

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**From:** Maureen O'Leary [mailto:Maureen.O'Leary@dartmouth.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 13, 2016 5:10 PM  
**To:** Maureen O'Leary  
**Subject:** Rennie Farm Project: Status Update

Sent on behalf of Steven Moore, Interim Vice President of Campus Services.

**To our neighbors,**

At the September 13 public meeting regarding the Rennie Farm site, Dartmouth Executive Vice President Rick Mills committed Dartmouth to becoming a better neighbor and identifying ways in which the College could be more transparent and proactive in our communications with Rennie Farm neighbors. Rick and I have worked with our team to outline the ways in which we can meet this commitment. This communication is intended as an update on this process. Please note that our efforts are ongoing; this is the first in a series of updates on our actions and progress.

We recognize that there are multiple issues related to the farm site. Here, we will define each issue, summarize the related challenges, identify what we have been doing, and detail our future plans.

#### **1,4-Dioxane Found Beyond the Rennie Farm Site**

As you know, we have detected the chemical in groundwater, surface water, and in two wells supplying drinking water to two properties near Rennie Farm. Under the direction of the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), we have installed monitoring wells to map the extent of the chemical. This work is ongoing and will result in delineation of the plume and its potential for movement. In conjunction with this work, we have asked impacted property owners for permission to collect and analyze drinking water samples to alert us to any other wells that may have dioxane contamination. As a reminder, if you would like your drinking water sampled (or re-sampled), please contact us (see contact information below).

In order to address concerns of possible additional well effects, we are offering to supply drinking water to residents in the vicinity of the detected dioxane contamination. We have begun contacting residents in these areas. For these residents, Dartmouth will continue to supply drinking water for those who elect to receive it until the contamination is fully mapped and the movement of the chemical has been determined. Should our mapping efforts expand or redirect our area of focus, we will also expand the offer to supply drinking water.

It is important to understand that mapping must be completed in order to identify opportunities to reduce the levels of off-site contamination. It is also important to know that it is possible that there may not be an available treatment option for off-site groundwater contamination. The College is exploring all avenues for treatment of on- and off-site contamination, and will follow DES requirements for the management and reporting of contamination.

Based on our recent testing, we believe that we will see additional positive groundwater test results for dioxane as the known contamination dissipates. We will make all of our lab results, which are done by an outside company, publically available in a timely fashion and we will provide updates on our mapping progress.

## **Health Concerns**

To date, the College has provided information on the possible health effects associated with exposure to dioxane and we have held meetings to discuss these effects. Some people have expressed ongoing concerns about health. The College is identifying outside health-risk experts who can serve as a resource for neighbors to consult on health issues. We will pay the cost associated with a selected third-party health-risk expert who is able to provide information about known or documented effects presented by dioxane-contaminated water.

We are continuing to research and identify former residents of the affected areas so that these individuals may have access to the health expert and to other information we have on this project. Additionally, we have identified four concerned citizens, who have been in regular contact with us, to convene a Neighbor Advisory Panel. The panel will be made up of neighbors who will be asked to gather concerns and present them to the health-risk expert. We are putting together a list of qualified health experts to present to the panel for members' input on the choice of the expert. We hope to finalize the formation of the panel in the next four weeks, and to have the panel's recommendation on a health expert shortly thereafter.

## **Property Valuation**

We recognize that there are concerns regarding the potential impact of contamination in the area on property values. To begin this process, the College has convened an internal property valuation working group and has retained a consultant to facilitate discussions with property owners to evaluate this issue. Our first step in this process is to contact neighbors with properties currently for sale, which we are doing this week. We will listen to their concerns and experiences with the current real estate market. We will expand this conversation to include property owners who have expressed concerns about valuation. If you have concerns, please contact Ellen Arnold (603-646-2654 or via email [ellen.l.arnold@dartmouth.edu](mailto:ellen.l.arnold@dartmouth.edu)). As we learn more about the impact of the

contamination on individual properties, we will identify and discuss options to address the property value concerns of affected neighbors.

## **1,4-Dioxane on the Rennie Farm Site**

As you know, we have been installing monitoring wells and collecting data since the first detection of 1,4-dioxane was made in 2012, in an effort to understand the contamination remaining at the former burial site. We have submitted a remedial action plan to DES and the plan has been approved. The plan calls for the design, installation and validation of an on-site pump-and-treat system that will collect groundwater and remove the dioxane from the water. The system is expected to be installed and operational by the end of the year.

While preventing further migration of dioxane from the former burial site, it is important to note that this system may not be able to treat contaminated groundwater off of the site. We will know more about the treatment options of this system, including potential treatment of off-site contamination, once our mapping and plume investigations are complete. On and off site contamination will be subject to a State Groundwater Management Permit and will be actively sampled and reported on to the State in order to continue to understand the levels and movement of any contamination and to maintain it within this defined management zone. In addition to installing the treatment system we will be conducting additional soil and water sampling to better identify and quantify the location and level of contamination at the site. The supplemental soil sampling in the former burial area will begin the week of October 24. The College is committed to managing and remediating the contamination under the direction of DES and will continue to weigh all options for that work.

## **Other Site Contaminants**

We have received a number of requests to further investigate the original burial site to ensure that no significant sources of contamination for dioxane or other contaminants remain. As a protective measure, DES has recommended that we refrain from excavation investigations until the pump-and-treat system is in place, operational, and validated. The College concurs with DES concern that such excavation may hasten the release of additional dioxane into off-site groundwater. Therefore we have postponed our plan to reinvestigate the site until the pump-and-treat system is functioning.

## **Human Remains**

Some neighbors have expressed concerns regarding the human remains buried at the site. The College has identified that embalmed cadavers from gross-anatomy programs were interred at the site during 1966. We have installed a monitoring well as close to the interment area as is practicable, and we have sampled the soil and groundwater for potential contaminants. Our results revealed no chemical contamination. Additional sampling is scheduled and the results will be reported when they are available.

We recognize that many of these actions are ongoing and do not provide conclusive evidence of gains made in mitigating the contamination from Rennie Farm; however, it is our hope that our work is an indication that the College is active and invested in protecting public health and addressing neighbor concerns.

We will continue to share information, offer educational opportunities for a better understanding of our work and the related challenges, and keep you apprised of our evolving work plans. Should you have questions about our work, contact our Environmental Health and Safety department, led by Maureen O'Leary (603-646-1762 or via email [Maureen.OLeary@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Maureen.OLeary@dartmouth.edu)) or the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (603-271-3503).

Sincerely,

Steven C. Moore

Interim Vice President of Campus Services