

Answers to Comments Received in Response to Notice of Public Involvement Plan Comment Period Concerning Immediate Response Action Plan Status Report Number 2

Comment No. 1: [Compost Stockpiles]

Are the stockpiles of compost and feedstock at the Site covered with plastic as required by the August 18, 2022, IRA Conditional Approval? If not, can you provide a date when they will be covered by?

Answer to Comment No. 1:

Massachusetts Natural Fertilizer (“MNF”) has made good faith efforts to cover the stockpiles. Safety concerns have made it impossible to cover the stockpiles in their present configurations, however. MNF has informed DEP about the safety concerns and has requested guidance and a plan from DEP to address the stockpiles. A revised plan has been drafted and sent to DEP, and MNF is awaiting approval of the revised plan.

You can also consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for more information. The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 2: [Public Communication]

Per the August 18, 2022, IRA Conditional Approval, MNF is to “Provide adequate advance written notice for public meetings by hand delivery or first-class mail to all affected property owners within the site boundaries, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1403(2)(a)”. I have not received any notices by hand delivery or first-class mailing for any of the public meetings held or currently scheduled. Can I expect to receive written notice for all future public meetings? Can you please provide a specific time frame for what “adequate advance” notice will be?

Answer to Comment No. 2:

All public meetings have been noticed via email to each resident for whom we have email addresses and through postings on the www.WestminsterPFAS.com website, with direct links to the electronic platform on which each meeting has been conducted. We have sent mailings to residents via first-class mail requesting email addresses so that we can provide direct links to the meetings.

Please consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for up to date information. All written communication and announcements will be regularly updated on the WestminsterPFAS.com webpage.

The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 3: [WestminsterPFAS.com][MassDEP Correspondence]

Per the August 18, 2022, IRA Conditional Approval, MNF is to “Maintain current accurate information on the public information website, located at westminsterpfas.com, including The addition of a link or tab organized to include information specific to MassDEP’s Bureau of Air and Waste Recycling, Composting and Conversion Permit for MNF, including but not limited to, the RCC Permit, MassDEP correspondence, and material testing; Any and all documents issued by or submitted to MassDEP to MNF for this facility.” Why are there no correspondences between MNF and MassDEP, or schedules, regarding the August 9, 2022, UAO Appeal on the westminsterpfas.com site? Where on the website are correspondences between MassDEP and MNF regarding soil sampling, removal of stockpiles/contaminated material, or any of the work Tighe & Bond is doing regarding solid waste topics that are separate and distinct from the subject IRA?

Answer to Comment No. 3:

Please consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for up to date information. All relevant non-privileged written communication and announcements will be regularly updated on the WestminsterPFAS.com webpage.

The August 9, 2022 appeal can be found under the “Documents” section of the WestminsterPFAS.com webpage.

<http://westminsterpfas.com/Assets/Documents/220809%20UAO%20Appeal%20Packet%20Scanned.pdf>

The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 4: [PFAS runoff] [Crocker Pond]

What is being done to mitigate potential PFAS runoff into surface water bodies, such as Crocker Pond?

Answer to Comment No. 4:

Mitigation and remediation efforts are being developed in conjunction with DEP, based on

current assessment activities. The IRA Plan Modification, filed in December 2022, proposes mitigation approaches concerning impacts to surface water. DEP is currently reviewing the IRA Plan Modification, which is also open to public comment until February 28, 2023.

Comment No. 5: [Demolition of Chicken Farm] [Asbestos]

Does MNF have any documentation of the demolition and/or disposal of the building materials associated with the former chicken farm buildings? Does MNF have any knowledge that those materials could contain asbestos?

Answer to Comment No. 5:

At this time, the IRA only addresses the current PFAS exposure, PFAS assessment, and PFAS mitigation. Asbestos-related issues are not a part of the current IRA plan. Should new information relevant to the IRA become available, updates will be published on the WestminsterPFAS.com webpage.

You can also consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for more information. The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 6: [Asbestos]

Has MNF tested any incoming material for asbestos?

Answer to Comment No. 6:

See response to Comment No. 5.

You can also consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for more information. The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 7: [Construction Material]

Has MNF received asphalt/ brick or construction material?

Answer to Comment No. 7:

See response to Comment No. 5.

You can also consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for more information.

The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 8 [Other Testing]

Has MNF tested for any other contaminants other than PFAS?

Answer to Comment No. 8:

See response to Comment No. 5.

You can also consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for more information. The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 9 [Burning]

Has MNF disposed of anything on the property by burning? Has the Fire Department ever responded to the Site?

Answer to Comment: No. 9:

See response to Comment No. 5.

You can also consult www.WestminsterPFAS.com for more information. The WestminsterPFAS.com page is the best source for the latest news, reports, public comments, maps and data about PFAS and the Westminster study area.

Comment No. 10: [Zoom Meetings]

In your October 21, 2022, IRA Public Involvement Activities letter, you state “we have held several successful Zoom meetings with Westminster residents.” Who were the meetings successful for? Please explain the criteria you used to determine the meetings were “successful”? I have attended every public Zoom meeting and do not deem them successful from a resident's standpoint. Without the ability to speak or even use the chat feature on Zoom, I do not feel it is a true public meeting if the public can not freely speak. When will these public meetings be held in person not just via zoom?

Answer to Comment No. 10:

Zoom was selected because it is the most equitable, open, accessible, and fair way to

conduct meetings. In person meetings limit the number of people in a room, limit those who can attend due to other obligations or transportation limitations, and limit those with health concerns or close to people with health concerns.

There is no maximum capacity for Zoom; Zoom attendance can be from anywhere with internet; and Zoom is a free software available to all.

If, in the future, meetings are moved to an in person location, the relevant parties will be notified and the relevant information will be published.