



Jon S. Corzine  
Governor

## State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection  
Site Remediation Program  
P. O. Box 028  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Mark N. Mauriello  
Commissioner

December 9, 2008

Dear Reader:

A group of concerned citizens living near the construction site of the Martin Luther King/Jefferson school site reported that dust generated from the fill material during construction activities during 2004-2005 might have caused area residents to become sick with respiratory ailments. Residents requested that a study be done to determine if there was a public health hazard from this off-site dust.

To address this concern, NJDEP requested scientists at the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute to determine the potential exposure to contaminants originating from the site and potential health risks. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and lead were the two contaminants of concern that were analyzed.

I would like to inform you that the study you requested has been completed. The results indicate that samples of lead and PAHs found in the dust taken from indoor samples are within normal range and do not pose a public health risk. PAHs found outside the home were also within normal range and do not pose a public health risk.

Lead found in the dust samples collected *outside* the homes did, in some cases, show elevated levels. The levels of lead in the outdoor dust at the residences varied widely from one residence to another. However, results of the study indicate that the soil from the construction site was *not* the source of these elevated levels, but rather that the lead came from leaded paint outside the residences or from historical lead deposited in the soil from leaded gasoline used decades ago.

Results also suggest that off-site dust from the fill material was limited to within the one block immediately adjacent to the construction area on Evans Avenue and Southard Street, with a possible impact on Race Street.

The results from this study are based on soil samples that were collected from the site, dust samples taken from inside and outside the adjacent school buildings and surrounding residences and air samples obtained during demolition of the school building.

Prior to demolishing the partially completed building, dust suppression activities were planned to prevent dust from the site reaching nearby residences. The air samples collected during demolition had mass and

metal concentrations consistent with background levels in an urban, industrial setting. Thus, the dust suppression methods in place during the demolition activities were effective in minimizing spread of dust to the neighborhood.

The NJDEP has posted the study and a citizen's guide explaining the study results at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/school-study/>. If you have any questions on the report or its results or require additional information, please contact Dr. Alan Stern at 609-984-6070 and he would be happy to assist you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Putnam', written in a cursive style.

Ed Putnam, Manager  
Publicly Funded Remediation