



ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Paul Mintz

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July 11, 2007

TO: Concerned Members of the South Hill Elementary School Community

RE: Environmental Testing at South Hill Elementary School

The Ithaca City School District, as well as a number of members of the South Hill Elementary School Community, has been concerned about whether TCE contamination from an identified site on the other side of Route 96 could have migrated to the South Hill Elementary School site.

At the beginning of June 2007, I discussed the District's concern with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). This was followed by a formal request to NYSDEC from the District for environmental soil gas testing at the school site both along Route 96 and in areas, including playgrounds, between Route 96 and the school building. NYSDEC in turn, made a request to Emerson Power Transmission (EPT) for the testing. EPT considered the request and responded that it would have the testing performed. A test plan was developed that was subsequently reviewed and approved by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). That testing will be conducted this month with soil gas samples collected and delivered to a laboratory approved by the NYSDOH for analysis. I anticipate that the District will receive a summary letter report of the testing in August, followed by final testing results in a detailed report.

Whether any additional steps or testing will be required will be dependent on the outcome of the test results. It has been reassuring that all parties have been in agreement that however unlikely the spread of contamination to the school site, confirmation testing is warranted to ensure the safety of students, staff, and others who utilize the school site.

Once the test results are received and reviewed, the District will ensure that the information is disseminated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Mintz".

Paul Mintz

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services