



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

DATE: February 20, 2025

SUBJ: Site Investigation Closure Memorandum
Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site – Removal Response III
Intersection of McCabe and Lincoln Streets
Dartmouth, MA 02748

FROM: Cayla Jimenez, On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response and Removal Section I

CAYLA
JIMENEZ

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CAYLA JIMENEZ
Date: 2025.02.20
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THRU: Edward J. Bazenias, Chief
Emergency Response and Removal Section I

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TO: Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site File

In accordance with section 300.410 of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), a Removal Site Evaluation, consisting of a Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation (PA/SI), has been undertaken at the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site (“Site”) in Dartmouth, MA. The findings of the Removal Site Evaluation have been evaluated under the criteria set forth in section 300.415 of the NCP, section 104(a) and (b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(a) and (b) and Clean Water Act (CWA) § 311(c)(i) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) § 4201(a). The Removal Site Evaluation has led to the determination that a Removal Action is appropriate at this time.

The findings of the Removal Site Evaluation are outlined below.

1. Source and nature of the release or threat of release

a. The Removal Site Evaluation consisted of the following actions:

- i. Review of final individual property reports, analytical results, boring logs, and sampling location maps generated by EPA’s Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) and EPA’s New England Regional Laboratory (NERL) through the sampling of nine properties for lead and total PCBs conducted during a sampling event in the fall of 2024.
- ii. Review of soil sampling analytical results reflecting lead and total PCB concentrations generated by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protections (MassDEP), START, and NERL ranging from 2021 through 2024.

- iii. Consideration of MassDEP Letter, dated August 23, 2021, addressed to Carol Tucker US EPA, RE: DARTMOUTH-BWSC, Release Tracking Number 4-0027620 Bliss Corner Neighborhood, Request for EPA Assistance/Removal Action.
 - iv. Consideration of MassDEP Interoffice Memorandum dated January 22, 2020, from Greg Braun (ORS) to Lori Williamson, Project Manager (BWSC SERO) Subject: Conditions posing a potential Imminent Hazard from exposure to soil contaminants at properties in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood of Dartmouth, MA.
- b. Based on the information available at this time, the principal hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants that are being released, or for which there is threat of release, include but are not necessarily limited to the list below:

<u>Hazardous Substances or Pollutants or Contaminants</u>	<u>Media</u>
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Lead	Residential Soil
PCBs	Residential Soil

2. Evaluation of the threat to public health, welfare and the environment conducted by:

- a. ☐ Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐Threat ☐No Threat ☒Evaluation Not Necessary
- b. Endangerment to the ecosystem:
- ☐Threat ☐No Threat ☒Evaluation Not Necessary

3. If it has been determined that a removal action is **not** warranted under CERCLA, please proceed to 3a, and mark the appropriate boxes.

If it has been determined that a removal action **is** warranted under CERCLA, please proceed to 3b, and mark the box.

- a. ☐ There is no release.
- ☐ The source is neither a “vessel” nor a “facility” as defined in section 300.5 of the NCP.

☐ The release involves neither a hazardous substance nor a pollutant or contaminant that may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare of the United States.

☐ It is subject to the limitations on response specified in `300.400(b)(1) through (3):

☐ The release is of a naturally occurring substance in its unaltered form, or altered solely through naturally occurring processes or phenomena, from a location where it is naturally found.

☐ The release is from products that are part of the structure of, and result in exposure within, residential buildings or businesses or community structures.

☐ The release into public or private drinking water supplies due to deterioration of the system through ordinary use.

☐ The amount, quantity, or concentration released does not warrant a Federal response.

☐ A party responsible for the release, or any other person, is providing appropriate response, and on-scene monitoring by EPA is not required.

b. ☒ The Removal Site Evaluation is complete and a removal action is warranted.

4. As reflected in Section 3 above, the Removal Site Evaluation was completed and a removal action is warranted. Regardless of the determination, one or more of the factors listed below, found in Section 300.415(b)(2) of the NCP, may be applicable to this Site.

a. ☒ Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants.

☒ Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems.

☐ Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers that may pose a threat of release.

☒ High levels of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface that may migrate.

☒ Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants to migrate or be released.

☐ Threat of fire or explosion.

☒ The availability of other appropriate Federal or State response mechanisms to respond to the release.

☐ Other situations or factors that may pose threats to public health or welfare of the United States or the environment.

- b. The purpose of this memorandum is to document the determination that a removal action is warranted under section 300.415 of the NCP.

In July 2018, MassDEP responded to an odor complaint at an unoccupied residential lot at 85 McCabe Street, Dartmouth, Massachusetts. MassDEP identified buried waste material on the property prompting soil sampling for metals and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In the ensuing months, MassDEP inspected and sampled additional unoccupied properties and Town of Dartmouth rights-of-way. MassDEP observed a fill layer consisting of coal ash, glass, brick, and clinkers. In September 2019, MassDEP began residential sampling in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood. In October 2020, EPA received a request from MassDEP to provide support of residential sampling in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood. EPA and MassDEP, with the support of START and NERL, conducted six rounds of residential sampling from July 2021 to November 2024. More than 90 properties have been sampled through these efforts.

In August of 2021, EPA received a request from MassDEP for assistance and support to address residential properties that exhibited the highest concentrations of lead and/or PCB contamination in surficial soil. In October 2021, EPA approved an Action Memorandum to address five of the properties where the highest concentrations of lead and PCBs were measured. EPA amended the Action Memorandum four times (September 2022, June 2023, July 2023, and May 2024) to increase the removal action ceiling and add eight additional properties to the scope of the time-critical removal action. In June 2024, EPA approved a second Action Memorandum to address an additional four properties as field activities executed through the first Action Memorandum neared completion. An Amendment to the second Action Memorandum was approved in January 2025 to ensure the completion of the removal action at the four properties. As of February 2025, EPA has addressed contamination at a total of 16 residential properties, one commercial property, and a Town right-of-way through time-critical removal actions. A third removal action is warranted to address substantial lead contamination at three additional properties identified through the latest sampling event (November 2024) in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood.

- c. If a removal action **is** warranted and in light of the magnitude of the threat or potential threat to health, welfare, or the environment, the appropriate categorization of a Removal Action as this Site is:

☐Emergency ☒Time-Critical ☐Non Time-Critical ☐N/A

5. As reflected in Section 3 above, the Removal Site Evaluation has been concluded and it has been determined that a removal action under CERCLA **is** warranted. Section 5 below documents whether a release or potential threat of release under CWA, as amended by OPA, has been determined.

- a. As found in section 300.410(e)(1) of the NCP, the OSC shall determine whether a release governed by CWA section 311(c)(1), as amended by OPA section 4201(a), has occurred.

☐ There is release, or potential threat of release, as governed by the CWA as amended by OPA.

☒ There is not a release, or potential threat of release, as governed by the CWA as amended by OPA.

- b. The **absence** of the conditions specified in Section 5a, above, indicate that an Oil Spill Response under Appendix E to Part 300 of the NCP **is not** necessary.

cc: Edward J. Bzenas, Chief,
Emergency Response and Removal Section I, SEMD (w/o attachments)
Ross Gilleland, Chief, Remedial Policy, Contracts, and Site Assessment Section, SEMD (w/o attachments)
Stacy Greendlinger, Enforcement Coordinator, Operations Branch, SEMD (w/o attachments)
Jonathan Onufryk, Operations Branch, SEMD (w/o attachments)
Ruthann Sherman, Senior Enforcement Counsel, ORC
Lori Williamson, MassDEP
R1 Records Center

Encl: No Enclosures