

# Raytheon seeks permit for site cleanup

By Eun Lee Koh

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Raytheon Co. has applied for a permit to replace about 1.5 acres of contaminated soil with clean fill, the first in what is to be a series of efforts by the company to clean up its former site off Boston Post Road in Wayland.

The company has worked closely with the town over the past several years trying to address a number of contamination issues at its former 83-acre campus, which it occupied from 1955 to 1996, where hazardous chemicals, oils, and solvents have been found in the wetlands and ground water near the site. No actual cleanup has taken place so far, but securing the permit from the US Corps of Army Engineers is a critical step in allowing the company to move forward with one component of the process, according to Raytheon spokeswoman Amy Hosmer.

"This is just one in many steps," Hosmer said. "There has been no remediation yet, but the permit will get the ball rolling."

The Army Corps of Engineers, which announced the company's permit application last week, is

collecting public comment and input from environmental agencies, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency, until May 26. The Corps will be examining the impact of the cleanup effort on nearby wetlands, including the floodplain of the Sudbury River, and the habitats of numerous species of fish and other wildlife, according to Tim Dugan, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Wayland town officials, who have been working with Raytheon and its engineers, will host a public information session at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the town offices to update residents on the cleanup.

The remediation would require excavating about 18 inches of soil, disposing the contaminated soil properly, and re-soiling and replacing the vegetation on the site, according to the permit application. The project has the potential to disturb the habitat of about 15 species of fish that live in the area, including chain pickerel, yellow perch, and largemouth bass, but a district engineer for the Corps has found that the disturbance would

be temporary and the effect would not be substantial, according to the permit application.

"These are all things that will be studied and commented until May 26," Dugan said. "If we, in fact, determine that the fill also has potential to harm, then the company will have to seek some other route."

Andy Irwin, a member of the Conservation Commission and one of the town's leading experts on the Raytheon project, said it was possible that through the comment process, the EPA could recommend that the company also replace soil at other parts of the site.

"It would be interesting to see what the EPA has to say," Irwin said. "The company could end up remediating a larger area that what's on the original permit application."

The Corps has 120 days after the close of the comment period to decide whether it will grant the permit, Dugan said.

The 1.5-acre site is located along the Sudbury River, adjacent to the former Raytheon site. The soil that the company wants to re-

place has been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and metals, a result of the work that Raytheon used to do at the site, including photographic development and hydraulics testing.

"There may be things that crop up during the comment period that we aren't aware of, and this will give the public a chance to speak up before we make a decision," Dugan said.

The permit application process is a small part of a lengthy and complex cleanup effort, Hosmer said. As Raytheon seeks to secure permits to replace the soil at the site, the company is also trying to address contamination issues with the ground water near the site, where high levels of carcinogenic trichloroethylene was discovered last October, Hosmer said.

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