

Raytheon clean-up talk continues

By **Andrew Ravens**
NEWS STAFF WRITER

WAYLAND – Raytheon officials this week said they are doing all they can to ensure the successful cleanup of 1.5 acres of contaminated soil at its old Boston Post Road property.

On Wednesday night, Edwin Madera, a Raytheon environmental engineer, delivered an hourlong PowerPoint presentation and then answered questions from about 20 audience members.

Most discussion centered around a tiny plume on the 83-acre campus where dangerous chemicals, oils and solvents have been found.

Madera said much of the focus was on the “northern plume” because it was deemed “more dangerous than the first plume,” that had initially been

discovered.

Raytheon plans to excavate to a depth of about 18 inches and then put in new soil and plants.

“We are proposing wetlands excavation work this summer,” said Madera. “Raytheon’s primary concerns are the Baldwin Pond well fields.”

Some have raised the possibility that the well fields could pull the contamination further eastward.

Madera said that all indications are that the contamination is moving east to west. But Madera admitted he was “not sure where that plume is going.”

The public seemed generally content with Raytheon’s comprehensive permit proposal that is currently under consideration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It is also seeking approval from a variety of other agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, state Department of Environmental Protection and the Wayland Conservation Commission.

Madera said the cleanup would probably last three months, from August to November.

Some in the audience were concerned about what roads the trucks would use during the process.

“Have you folks determined where you are trucking the materials out of the property?” asked former Selectman Linda Segal.

Madera said the trucks would head west on Rte. 20 and would not travel east toward Rte. 27.

Wayland Meadows, the recently proposed 80-unit mixed-

housing project in Wayland Center, partially borders the site, and Madera said Raytheon has been in touch with developer Michael Intoccia.

“We are in conversations with them,” said Madera. “I don’t know exactly what they are doing out there. There is some small contamination near the Wayland Meadows site; it’s nothing dramatic.”

Madera admitted he was unsure if the contamination would spread once construction there commenced.

The Raytheon cleanup may also disturb 15 species of fish in the area.

Raytheon, which operated on the site from 1955 to 1996, says the contamination was likely caused by heavy equipment testing and photographic development.