

Raytheon cleanup moves to next phase

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Edwin Madera, a senior environmental engineer for Raytheon, presented an update on the cleanup of the former Raytheon facility at 430 Boston Post Road in Wayland earlier this month.

The 83 acres the former Raytheon facility occupied have been under extensive investigation since 1995 to understand the environmental impacts to the soil, groundwater and wetlands in the area.

Raytheon completed treatment of groundwater in the southern portion of the site this past summer and is now evaluating the effectiveness of its efforts. Residents at the forum asked about the drinking water standards in the southern area of the site, but Madera said it was too soon to tell.

"It's going to be years before we see the results of our injections in the southern area," he said, "it's a matter of just waiting and evaluating as time goes on."

In the next phase, Madera explained, they will begin to focus on the northern area of the site and the wetlands.

"The northern area is a more narrow plume," says Madera. "From the data that we have gathered we show that contamination is migrating west from this area."

Residents also asked about contamination migrating north or south, which would lead to the Sudbury River. Madera said from the data they've gathered, the only migration they see in the northern section has been to the west, which does not affect the river.

"What we're trying to do is isolate and concentrate on the area of highest concentration of contamination," Madera said, "that will

give us a good handle on how we're going to treat and remediate this area."

The plans for what is called Draft Phase II and Phase III are due in December of 2005. In Madera's proposal he said for Phase II they will be using a Membrane Interface Probe, a new device which they have not used before, to provide real-time continuous containment distribution data. It can be used both above and below the water table. They will also conduct soil sampling and install permanent monitoring wells.

The purpose of Draft Phase II is three-fold, Madera said – to collect data that supports conclusions about the source, nature and extent of oil and hazardous material; to assess the potential risk of harm to health, safety and public welfare; and to decide on the need to conduct remedial actions at the site.

Raytheon has proposed three monitoring well locations in the wetlands but due to EPA restrictions cannot install the wells until after Sept. 1. However, Madera says they will petition to install the wells this summer.

"We have contamination that starts off shallow and then goes deep, that's the natural progression," says Madera, "we treat the deep and shallow contamination differently."

The Draft Phase II plan was submitted on March 10, and public comment must be received by April 10.

To access any of the documents pertaining to Raytheon's remediation and compliance activities you can visit the Public Involvement Plan Web site at "www.ermne.com" (the username is "raytheon" and the password is "wayland"). Copies of reports are also available in the Wayland Public Library and at the Wayland Board of Health office.