

December 19, 2008

081-12152-05

Mr. Jeffrey Crawford  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Waste Management  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908-5767

Subject: Springfield Street School Complex, Providence, RI

Dear Mr. Crawford:

During our recent quarterly inspection of the sub-slab vapor extraction systems at the Springfield Street School complex, we noted black dust inside the shed for the rear blower at the Middle School. The black dust was deposited on the floor and other surfaces inside the shed, but there was no evidence that any dust had escaped the blower shed. As you know, the blower "sheds" are actually brick walled rooms on the side of the building and are fully enclosed. These rooms are not occupied or used for school related purposes, and are locked at all times. The blower was operating normally.

We believe that the black dust is fine carbon dust that escaped from one of the carbon vessels. No obvious holes or corrosion were visible during a visual inspection. Corrosion of one of the carbon vessels or deterioration of the PVC piping may have resulted in a small hole.

To investigate and correct the problem, we would like to shut down the system, clean the black dust from the surfaces in the shed, then carefully inspect the system to locate the source of the dust. After the source of the dust is located, we can make repairs and restart the system.

We propose to perform this work during the school vacation weeks of December 22, 2008 to January 2, 2008. We believe that this would be the best time to perform the work because the buildings will not be occupied by students. Following completion of the repair work, we will submit a letter to RIDEM describing the source of the black dust and the completed repair work.

Please call me if you have any questions or comments regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Donna Holden Pallister, P.E., L.S.P.  
Senior Engineer

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CC: A. Sepe, City of Providence