

Information Sheet #3 MIT W85 – Westgate November 27, 2006

This is an update on the status of PCB abatement at the Westgate complex. As previously stated, samples of non-window exterior caulking from the ABC building revealed concentrations of PCBs above the EPA threshold for abatement. Leaving the caulk in place without disturbing it would not pose a health risk. However, once voluntary testing is done and shows elevated levels, the EPA then requires that the caulk be removed and replaced using procedures formally reviewed and approved by the EPA.

This Wednesday, Nov. 29th, licensed professionals will begin this abatement work with a pilot study of the exterior of the building, in accordance with the regulations. Barriers and protective equipment will be set up along the southern (windowless) wall of the ABC building to prevent any material from escaping the abatement area while the contaminated caulk is removed. Because the site will be tightly controlled, there is no health risk to residents during the abatement.

Most of the work is expected to take one full day to complete, with a few short follow-up visits over the following two weeks. Residents of the ABC building may notice vibrations or other noises throughout the day Wednesday, but we have instructed the workers not to conduct any potentially disruptive work until after 8:30am. We apologize for any inconvenience this noise may cause. We will inform you of follow-up dates as soon as the schedule is confirmed.

The MIT EHS Office, Housing Office, and Medical Department are available to answer questions. We will continue to update residents of Westgate as activities progress. Please send any questions that you may have to Dennis Collins [colins@mit.edu]. The best person to answer a question will respond as soon as possible during business hours.

Additional information regarding PCBs is available on the web at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts17.pdf>