

Information Sheet #4 MIT W85 – Westgate May 10, 2007

This is another update on the 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. MIT believes that leaving the caulk in place without disturbing it would not pose a health risk. However, given that MIT's voluntary testing has shown certain levels of PCBs, MIT intends to develop a plan to address the PCB-containing materials, using procedures formally reviewed and approved by EPA.

This Monday, May 14th, licensed professionals will be conducting further sampling work on the exterior of the building, in accordance with the regulations. Workers will be collecting small samples of building materials (excluding caulk) along all four sides of the building, using hand tools and drills. The sampling process will be contained so we do not believe there to be any environmental health risk in the adjacent areas.

This work is expected to take one full day to complete, with a few short follow-up visits after MIT's semester end. Residents of the ABC building may notice vibrations or other noises throughout the day Monday, but we have instructed the workers not to conduct any potentially disruptive work until after 8:30am.

We ask residents of the ABC complex to keep their windows and patio doors shut on Monday, to avoid nuisance dust and noise from entering their apartments. We also suggest that parents keep their children from playing near where the work is being done to avoid disruption of the work or potential accidents. 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.

For more information and previous statements on this abatement, please go to:
<http://web.mit.edu/westgate/news.html>.