

Information Sheet #5

MIT W85 – Westgate

July 20, 2007

Here is the most recent news about the PCB abatement project in the Westgate complex. After a meeting with representatives from the EPA on July 10, 2007, MIT is considering the use of a chemical wash to remove residual PCBs found in the concrete and brick. Before a full scale wash can take place, trained professionals will perform a pilot test on selected vertical and horizontal surfaces to determine its efficiency. The pilot test will take place next Friday, August 3rd.

The contractor, Dec-Tam, will be conducting the chemical wash using a product called CAPSUR. Control of any dust, waste water contamination, and other environmental concerns will be handled with the utmost efficiency, ensuring there are no residual effects. The pilot testing will occur on a selected balcony and a small area near the Vassar St. entrance to A building. Before the vertical concrete surfaces are washed, approximately 10 linear feet of caulking will be removed from various building joints (brick to concrete, etc). Approximately 15 bricks will be removed from the concrete/brick joint to test underneath for PCBs. After these actions, the chemical wash pilot test will be performed, and new samples will be taken to determine the effectiveness at removing residual contamination.

Residents are asked to keep doors and windows shut, to avoid nuisance dust and noise. We also suggest parents keep their children away from the workers and the surrounding area, to avoid any potential accidents. We would also like to remind the residents that the work being done is to ensure MIT's continual environmental compliance, and that the building materials (intact brick and cement) do not pose a health risk.

The MIT EHS Office, Housing Office, and the Medical Department are available to answer questions. Please email any questions to Dennis Collins (colins@mit.edu).

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