

Ohio EPA receives notification for former GHS demolition

By **RACHEL MENDELL**
Inquirer Reporter
rmendell@galioninquirer.com

As of June 11, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency received notification from A. J. Riley for the old Galion High School demolition. By law, notification must be given to the EPA 10 business days in advance of any demolition project. This means the soonest the crew can get started is June 24.

Concerns have been raised concerning the arsenic and other metals found in the Phase I and Phase II environmental studies done by CTL Engineering Inc. of Dublin, Ohio, in 2005.

Concerns were also raised during a meeting facilitated by the building project management consultant, Pat O'Brien at the Dutch Heritage Restaurant in Bellville, June 6, 2005. Present at the meeting were representatives of the Ohio School Facilities Commission, Gilbane Construction and Fanning and Howey Architects. Galion board of education members present at that meeting were Marge McCumber, Bob Zeisler and Kent Gimbel.

One of the purposes of that June meeting was to narrow down possible elementary school sites. The old high school site had been proposed as a possible elementary site because of its closeness to Heise Park and the Galion Public Library. The site was determined by the OSFC to be inappropriate due to conclusions of the CTL studies.

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exposure of arsenic to human receptors, the paved and grass surfaces of the property should be maintained. Also, if this property should undergo construction activities, dust suppression techniques should be applied to minimize the potential for dust inhalation."

On page 12, second paragraph, of the Phase II study states that arsenic was detected in 13 of the 15 borings taken at the old high school site with concentrations varying from 2.58 mg/kg to 37.7 mg/kg. The study stated that 12 or those 13 samples containing arsenic had concentrations greater than the Ohio EPA VAP Generic Direct-Contact Soil Standard for Residential Land-Use Scenario or 6.8 mg/kg for arsenic. However, the site would be suitable for commercial land use.

According to Dina Pierce of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the matter of arsenic only becomes a concern if it is going to become airborne or if it will leach into groundwater and contaminate wells in the area. The high school was using city water, so, she said, it is doubtful that there would be a problem with ground water issues.

The EPA does not normally come out to inspect a demolition site, said Pierce, unless there have been complaints made from the area.

According to Pierce all construction companies for building demolition sent

proper notification. Additional notification containing revisions have also been properly filed with the EPA. Demolition notifications:

- Galion High School — Asbestos removal notification submitted Dec. 13, 2007 with multiple revisions, by Total Environmental Services LLC. The new notification was received June 11 from A.J. Riley. The first date they can start demolition is June 24, 2008.

- Galion Middle School — Asbestos removal notification submitted Jan. 22 2008, with multiple revisions, submitted by LVI Environmental Services Inc. Notification for demolition submitted March 2, 2008 with one revision, Miller Contracting Group Inc.

- Dawsett Elementary — Asbestos removal and demolition notification submitted May 5, 2008 with two revisions the most recent dated June 9, 2008 by LVI Environmental Services Inc and Complete Clearing.

- Renschville Elementary — Asbestos removal and demolition notification submitted May 5, 2008 with two revisions. The most recent dated June 9, 2008, by LVI Environmental Services Inc and Complete Clearing.

- North Elementary — Asbestos removal and demolition notification submitted May 5, 2008 with three revisions the most recent dated June 9, 2008 LVI Environmental Services Inc and Complete Clearing.

"The existing high school site had borings completed," states the minutes from that meeting, "and it was determined that there was 7 to 8 feet of unsuitable fill and previous land use issues." The fact that 7 to 8 feet of soil would need to be removed and re-placed before the Ohio School Facilities Commission to approve to build on that site made it too costly. The previous land use issues dealt with the site being used previously as a cemetery."

Arsenic was found in the CTL Phase II study: "Arsenic in the environment may pose a health threat to people who are exposed to it. Therefore, to mitigate the