



# Gannett Fleming

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January 18, 2005  
File #43742

Andrew Lent  
Engineer Geologist II  
New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
200 White Plains Road - 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tarrytown, New York 10591-5805

Re: Valhalla Union Free School District  
Kensico School Athletic Field Renovation

Dear Mr. Lent:

As we discussed, Gannett Fleming is providing a brief description of site activities associated with the renovation of an athletic field at the Valhalla Union Free School District's Kensico School. This letter summarizes the information previously provided to Steven Parisio of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Attached are copies of project-related correspondence and laboratory data previously provided to Mr. Parisio.

NYSDEC's December 8, 2003 letter recommended that an investigation of the fill material used in the Field Renovation Project at the Valhalla U.P.S.D - Kenisco School (the District) be completed. The recommendation was made in response to an earlier request from the District to the NYSDEC for assistance and recommendations. The District has not been directed to complete or implement this work by the NYSDEC, rather, the District has chosen to voluntarily move forward with the preparation and implementation of this work with the support and cooperation of the NYSDEC.

### Site Description

The District Field Renovation Project site is located in the Town of Valhalla, Westchester County, New York. The site consists of the newly constructed athletic field located within the school district property between the tennis courts and District Office to the north, existing athletic fields to the east and south, and a small un-named stream to the west. A site plan of the athletic field is provided on attached survey drawing by C.T. Male Associates. The site is approximately three acres and includes a non-regulation size soccer field (currently reconfigured to be a baseball field) that was approved by NYSDEC and constructed in conjunction with the construction of the Kensico School.

A review of trucking manifests indicates fill was received from three different locations and suppliers. The location and distribution of the fill materials can be generally divided into three separate, but not equally thick, layers. The bottom layer was identified as blast spoils (coarse rock and boulders) and excavated rock and soil from the Interstate 87/287 reconstruction project

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in Tarrytown, New York. Because this material consisted of virgin, native rock and soil generated from a Department of Transportation (DOT) project, it was considered to be clean fill as documented through communications between the District and NYSDEC. The middle layer was identified as rock and soil generated from the White Plains City Center construction site by JM Associates, Inc. Analytical test data provided by JM Associates, Inc. indicate that this soil is uncontaminated. The top cover layer consists of soil provided by the landscape contractor hired to complete the athletic field and soil removed from the top (approximately 8 to 12 inches) of the multipurpose athletic field at Valhalla Middle/High School as part of the installation of a new synthetic playing surface. Written documentation identifying the origin of the cover layer provided by the landscape contractor has not yet been provided to the District, however, it has been described as top soil. The material removed from the multipurpose playing field was brought to the school district by a private contractor as part of an earlier field renovation within the past 16 or 17 years. The origin of the material from the multipurpose playing field was from the construction of a local fire house (Mt. Pleasant Fire Department) within the boundaries of the school district.

#### Site Inspection

On July 15, 2004, during a site inspection by Gannett Fleming, NYSDEC, and Valhalla U.P.S.D. representatives observed small amounts of construction and demolition (C&D) debris including fragments of concrete and coal slag on the surface of the top cover layer in several defined areas; C&D debris was not evident on the lower layers or on two out of three sides of the Field Renovation Project. Steve Parisio indicated his primary concern was for the quality of the top cover since this material poses the greatest risk of direct exposure during use of the field. Based on the recent survey of the site and top cover thickness observed in excavations on the field, the volume of top cover is estimated to be 4,840 cubic yards (CY).

#### Sampling

Following the site inspection, three soil samples were collected by Valhalla school district personnel to assess the quality of fill material laid over the surface of the athletic field. On July 19, 2004, surface soil samples from the athletic field were collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead, and mercury. These parameters were selected because they are typical contaminants in the region. On July 27, 2004, additional surface soil samples were collected from various locations around the Kensico School campus to assess background conditions. The July 27<sup>th</sup> samples were analyzed for poly-nuclear aromatic SVOCs, lead, and mercury, the constituents detected in the July 19<sup>th</sup> athletic field samples. VOCs and PCBs were not analyzed in the background samples since they were not detected in the athletic field samples.

Attached are sampling data and a site plan from the Kensico School athletic field renovation project. The samples contained benzo(a)anthracene and benzo(a)pyrene at concentrations above their respective NYSDEC Technical Administrative Guidance Memorandum (TAGM) #4046

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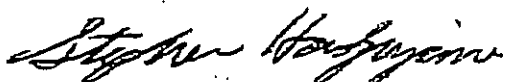
Recommended Soil Cleanup Objective (RSCO) in the athletic field samples. One athletic field sample also contained concentrations of chrysene and dibenzo(a,h)anthracene slightly above the RSCOs. Benzo(a)pyrene was found in one background soil samples at a concentrations above its RSCO.

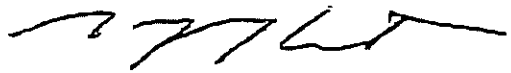
The sampling data indicates that the top cover placed on the athletic field renovation project is similar in quality to background soil surrounding the Kensico School. Lead concentrations were consistent in both the athletic field top cover and background samples. The presence of SVOCs, while slightly elevated in the athletic field top cover, were also detected in background samples and are consistent with typical levels found in the region.

Please call Gregory Ernst at (516) 671-8440 with any questions. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

GANNETT FLEMING ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, P.C.

  
STEPHEN HADJIYANE, P.E.  
Vice President

  
GREGORY ERNST  
Project Manager

Enc.  
cc: Brian Wolfson, Valhalla UFSD

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