

**Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Waste Management**

**FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**Facility Name:** Portsmouth Town Dump  
**Date of Investigation:** September 29, 2014  
**Facility Address:** East Main Road, Portsmouth

**Investigators:** Mark M. Dennen

**Background:**

During my last visit on 9/12/2014 I took samples directly from a load that was deposited in my presence reportedly from a dredge project the US Army Corps of Engineers is doing at 10 mile river/Omega Pond in East Providence. Arsenic was found to be present at 8.2 mg/kg. Samples done for the Army Corps of Engineers and submitted by APE show both samples had levels of arsenic below the detection limit (5.66 mg/kg in those samples). A decision was made to resample soils, if possible to obtain more arsenic results regarding the US ACOE project at Omega Pond. This would allow a more meaningful comparison to see if average arsenic levels are above 7 mg/kg.

**Findings:**

I went to the site on Friday 9/26/2014 but the gate was locked on nobody was present. Therefore, this time I deviated from standard protocols by called APE on Monday morning and arranging to have the gate unlocked, so I could be sure to get a sample. I arrived at 10:20 and Brian Almeida arrived just after and allowed me access to the site. I explained to him the purpose of my visit and we went to the area the East Providence material had been spread out. We both felt the area sampled (photo 1) was all of this material due to the characteristic presence of boulders and wood distinctive to this source, in addition to both of us remembering it being spread out at this location. It had not yet been covered over with other material.

I laid out a sampling grid at approximately 10 foot intervals. From each location I dug 3 shallow (<1 foot) holes and composited the soils from these 3 holes into 1 sample. I took 9 such samples I labeled SS-3 through SS-11. As my sampling was specific for arsenic I did not refrigerate the samples.

As shown in photo 2, dust on the dirt road on the site is well under control. I also I inspected the area where I noticed a dust issue on 9/12/2014 and found there was not a problem. Mr. Almeida said he had buried the dusty material that had created the issue and had also spread calcium chloride over the ground.

We also walked the area adjacent to the residences in the northeast corner of the property where some clean material had been spread out as cover. I asked about the timing of covering the rest. Mr. Almeida said they would start spreading more of the stockpiled clean soils on the west boundary of the site on Wednesday.

I left the site at approximately 11:30 AM and delivered the samples to ESS Laboratories that afternoon.

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Mark M. Dennen

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Date

Photo 1:  
Sampling area looking south. East Providence material is in the foreground. Material from Newport is the terraced area in background on right.



Photo 2: Newly spread out material on boundary of residential property in northeast corner of property.



Photo 3: Pickup truck driving on dirt road showing reasonably good dust control

