

**Public Notification  
Site Investigation Results  
Bridge Group 51C Route 37 Reconstruction  
Cranston and Warwick, Rhode Island**

In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM's) Rules and Regulations for the Investigation and Remediation of Hazardous Material Releases (the Remediation Regulations), the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) is providing notice to abutters that a Site Investigation for the above-mentioned site has been completed and plans for remediation and soil management have been submitted to RIDEM. The Site is located on and adjacent to Route 37 and portions of its rights-of-way between Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston and Post Road in Warwick. The investigation was performed to guide soil management decisions associated with upgrade of several Route 37 interchanges and bridges. The goal of the investigation was to determine the extent to which any historical activities at the site may have resulted in any exceedances of the RIDEM's promulgated soil criteria and whether that soil quality was likely to have affected groundwater. The investigation involved sampling and analysis of surface and subsurface soil and groundwater. The results of the investigation indicate that isolated areas contain concentrations of arsenic, lead, petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at concentrations exceeding RIDEM Residential and or Industrial/Commercial Direct Exposure Criteria. One soil sample contained concentrations of TPH that exceed RIDEM GB Leachability Criteria (GB LC). No impacts to groundwater were found.

The preferred remedy includes limited excavation of impacted soils with DEC exceedances to be placed beneath an engineered barrier and/or disposed off-Site at a licensed disposal facility; capping of jurisdictional soils via engineered barriers; and the implementation of an Environmental Land Use Restriction (ELUR) and Soil Management Plan (SMP). The ELUR would identify the engineered barriers, associated restrictions, and soil management requirements. An ELUR is a legal document drafted for the purpose of placing a notice of restrictions on the use or physical condition of a property for the protection of human health. The ELUR will require that the restricted portions of the property remain in place and be properly maintained.

RIDEM has determined that the investigation has adequately assessed the nature and extent of the contamination at the property and addressed all concerns in accordance with the Remediation Regulations. A copy of the Site Investigation Report is available to review on the RIDOT project website at: [Route 37 Improvements - Rhode Island Rhode Island Department of Transportation \(ri.gov\)](http://Route37Improvements-RhodeIsland.RhodeIslandDepartmentofTransportation.ri.gov). RIDOT is also proposing to complete additional investigation to further delineate the extent of TPH GB LC impacts for the purpose of providing limits to this excavation. This work would be completed when implementing the preferred remedy.

There is a 14 calendar day comment period, commencing with the date of this notice, during which the public may review RIDEM records pertaining to this property and submit written comments regarding the technical feasibility of the preferred remedial alternative. Should you require additional time for review, a request for an extension of the comment period may be made to the Department. Requests must be received by the Department before 4:00pm on the final day of the comment period and may be made in writing to the address or email address below or by calling the telephone number listed below. RIDEM will consider all substantive written comments prior to issuing its final approval of the proposed remedial alternative.

Written comments should be submitted to:

Joanna Pawlina, Environmental Scientist  
R.I. Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908-5767  
Phone: (401) 537-4359  
Email: [Joanna.Pawlina@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Joanna.Pawlina@dem.ri.gov)

Arrangements to review RIDEM records may be made by calling Angela Spadoni, Office of Customer and Technical Assistance, (401) 537-4029, or by email at [Dem.filereview@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Dem.filereview@dem.ri.gov).

# Environmental Justice Site-Specific Fact Sheet

## Site Location

Bridge Group 51C  
Cranston and Warwick, Rhode Island

## Site Characteristics

- The Project area consists of approximately 2.8 miles of the Route 37 corridor from Oaklawn Avenue to Post Road and six bridges and two interchanges associated with Route 37.
- Land use within the Project area includes public roadways as part of an interstate and the associated right-of-way (ROW) and surrounding land uses include mixed-use commercial, industrial, residential, and railroad properties.
- The Project is located in an area which has a groundwater classification of "GB." GB areas are defined as groundwater resources known or presumed unsuitable for drinking water use without treatment.

## Site History

- From at least 1939 through the early 1960s the Project area consisted of undeveloped forested land and agricultural fields. As early as 1889, two railroad ROWs transected the Project area. By the early 1960s, Route 37 was constructed. Properties in the vicinity of the Project area were primarily residential since the 1960s and industrial development was noted in the eastern portion of the project area since the development of Route 37.

## Project Status

- VHB evaluated nearby properties and historical activities to determine likely sources associated with oils and/or hazardous materials (OHM) which may impact the Project area. VHB and AECOM completed subsurface investigations between May 2024 and January 2025, as summarized in the Site Investigation Report dated May 8, 2025.
- RIDEM acknowledged in a Program Letter dated July 2, 2025, that the Site investigation was deemed complete and requested that public notice be issued to allow public comment on the technical feasibility of the preferred remedy before approving the preferred remedy.
- As described in the SIR and Program Letter, the proposed remedy includes limited excavation of impacted soils with exceedances of RIDEM's numerical criteria to be placed beneath an engineered barrier and/or disposed off-Site at a licensed disposal facility; capping of jurisdictional soils via engineered barriers; and the implementation of an Environmental Land Use Restriction (ELUR) and Soil Management Plan (SMP).
- Public notice is being provided to solicit comments on the technical feasibility of the preferred remedial alternative.

## Suspected and/or Known Contaminants

- Concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals (arsenic and less) were reported in limited soil samples in exceedance of RIDEM's Method 1 DEC. In one location, TPH concentrations in soil exceeded the GB Leachability Criteria (GB LC).
- Groundwater did not contain exceedances of the applicable GB Groundwater Objectives.

## Project Plan

- Following the comment period associated with the post-Site investigation public notices, the RIDEM is expected to issue a Remedial Decision Letter approving proposed remedial approach.
- A Remedial Action Work Plan will then be submitted to the RIDEM upon issuance of a Remedial Decision Letter, providing details of the remedy and summarizing how soil contamination will be managed in accordance with the RIDEM Remediation Regulations during construction.
- Contaminated soils excavated during construction will be managed per the approved Remedial Action Work Plan.
- A Limited Design Investigation will be completed to further delineate the TPH GB LC impact extents. This will inform the design of the excavation.

## Contact Information

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# The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Site Remediation Program & Environmental Justice

## DEM's SITE REMEDIATION PROGRAM

### WHO WE ARE

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is the state agency responsible for preserving the quality of Rhode Island's environment. In 1995, Rhode Island passed the Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act (amended in 1997) and established a voluntary program for brownfields cleanup through DEM. This Act created the Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Material Management's (LRSMM) Site Remediation Program. The Program encourages and supports the redevelopment and reuse of contaminated properties throughout RI. The Program was established to provide fair, comprehensive, and consistent regulation of the investigation and remediation of hazardous waste, hazardous material, and petroleum releases. The State program is designed to determine if a site poses a threat to human health and the environment and efficiently determine a remedy that is effective but not overly burdensome to the parties involved.

### PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the Site Remediation Program is to regulate and provide technical oversight for the investigation and remediation of releases of hazardous waste or hazardous material to the environment; to ensure that those investigations and remedial activities are conducted in a consistent manner that adequately protects human health and the environment; and to enforce regulations regarding the proper disposal of abandoned hazardous waste.

### THE PROCESS

Cleaning a contaminated site requires investigation, planning, and action. The Rules and Regulations for the Investigation and Remediation of Hazardous Material Releases (<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-140-30-1>) define the specific documents that are needed, or may be needed as part of that process:

- Notification of Release
- Site Investigation Work Plan (SIWP)
- Public Notice of Investigation
- Site Investigation Report (SIR)
- Public Notice of Completed Site Investigation & Public Comment Period on Technical Feasibility of Proposed Remedy
- Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP)
- Remedial Action
- Closure Report
- Environmental Land Usage Restriction (ELUR), if applicable

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**DEM Contact in Attached Letter**  
RIDEM/OLRSMM – Site Remediation  
235 Promenade Street, Suite 380  
Providence, RI 02908  
Phone: 401-222-2797  
Email: Provided in Letter

OR

Ashley L. Blauvelt, P.E.,  
Environmental Engineer IV  
RIDEM/OLRSMM – Site Remediation  
235 Promenade Street, Suite 380  
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## BROWNFIELDS

### WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD

Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

### DETERMING IF A SITE IS A BROWNFIELD OR IS CONTAMINATED

To determine if a site is a brownfield, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) should be conducted. This will determine the history of the property in which one is interested. The Phase I ESA will also determine any Recognized Environmental Concerns (RECs). If RECs are determined, a Phase II ESA, otherwise referred to as a site investigation, will be conducted. The Phase II ESA will determine whether contamination exists at a site.

### TYPES OF CONTAMINANTS

- Metals
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Semi-VOCs
  - Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons

### EXAMPLES OF BROWNFIELDS

- Abandoned Mills
- Gasoline & Service Stations
- Manufacturing Companies
- Dry Cleaners
- Print Shops
- Commercial / Strip Malls
  - Hair & Nail Salons
  - Home Improvement / Paint Stores
- Doctor, Dentist, Veterinary Clinic
- Farms & Orchards

### ADVANTAGES TO REDEVELOPING A BROWNFIELD

- Existing infrastructure
- Tax incentives
- Labor concentration
- Improve public health and safety
- Improve air and water quality
- Preserve historical landmarks and heritage architecture
- Beautify urban landscapes
- Reduce neighborhood blight
- Facilitate job growth

### REDEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES

- Open Space / Green Space / Athletic Fields
- Affordable Housing
- Industrial/Commercial Space
- Mixed-Use Space
- So much more!

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### HOW IT STARTED

As a result of Rhode Island's industrial history and heritage, many properties in the State have been impacted by past activities. Impacts include environmental contamination by oil and hazardous chemicals that were used in these operations. Many of the impacted sites are in the urban centers of the State. In many cases, low income and minority populations live in the communities around the sites. These populations have been subject to many historical inequities. Addressing these inequities and providing a fair, effective process for future involvement in site remediation projects is a main premise of environmental justice.

### WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)

EJ is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

### WHAT IS AN EJ AREA

EJ focus areas are defined as United States Census block groups that are in the highest fifteen percent (15%) of all Census block groups in RI with respect to the percent population identified as racial minorities or the highest fifteen percent (15%) of RI census block groups with respect to percent population with income identified as being twice the federal poverty level or below (utilizing the most recent and readily available data from the United States Census).

### IS MY PROPERTY IN AN EJ AREA

Check out DEM's ArcGIS map:

<https://ridemgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=87e104c8adb449eb9f905e5f18020de5>

### HOW DEM ADDRESSES EJ

Reference RIGL §23-19.14-5 to learn more about environmental equity and public participation.

