

Environmental Public Health

Summary Report in follow-up to an inquiry to the Minister's Office regarding IAQ at the Wetaskiwin Composite High School (WCHS) – January 13, 2016

AHS-EPH Central Zone EHO's (Kevin McLeod, Supervisor; Gord Watt, EHO-I; Brenda Ntiamoah, student EHO) met with Fillmore Construction staff (Colin Ward, Project Coordinator; Brian Drew, Project Manager; Sam Bilsky, Senior Site Superintendent) at the WCHS the afternoon of January 13, 2016.

The construction project at WCHS started in August 2015 and is labelled as a renovation and modernization project. WCHS consists of 5 structures built since 1965, that have been linked together under one roof.

This project is scheduled to take 24 months to complete. Major aspects of this project is to enlarge the East gymnasium, so that it will be used for sports and drama/music productions; completely new cafeteria kitchen and Home Ec. classroom; and asbestos abatement throughout the school (eventually).

Due to the large scope of work being performed, this has impacted approximately 30 to 40 % of the indoor spaces of the school environment, to date. Hallways have been narrowed or blocked off, some classrooms are not accessible to teachers or students; and indoor ventilation has been affected as old boiler(s) have been removed and new HVAC equipment is being brought in and installed.

Fillmore Construction (FC) is the main or lead contractor on-site and directs the work of all sub-trades. FC has had provincial OH&S on-site and involved since Sept 2015 and FC also has contracted the services of A&M Remediation to give direction to all of the asbestos remediation work.

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools (WRPS) have contracted RH Services to conduct the on-site IAQ testing in the construction areas, school classroom areas and the surrounding outdoor spaces. The IAQ testing also includes specific testing for asbestos – to ensure the safety for construction workers, teachers and students.

A&M Remediation and RH Services both have been involved on-site, with this project since September 2015.

Note – the bulk of the asbestos remediation is anticipated to occur during the first 12 to 15 months of the scheduled 24 months, for this project.

Asbestos was found to be used in several different materials, used throughout the school – flooring, drywall compounds, heat pipe insulating connections, etc. – particularly in the older portions of the school.

FC is doing their best to ensure that noise and dust is kept below acceptable levels, especially during schools hours when teachers and students are present. If there will be work that is particularly noisy or excessive dust potentially – this work is typically delayed to be done at 3 to 7 pm – when the fewest number of teachers and students would be present.

It would be our opinion, based on our conversations and information provided, with FC staff – that all avenues of due diligence to follow accepted policies, protocols and regulations are being complied with.

Report prepared by:



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