



2013 CONCORD ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

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Jack Bergman, Chair
 JoAnn DiNardo Halper, RN
 Kerry Diskin
 David Erickson, Esq.
 Alan Woodward, MD

The Board of Health is responsible for the overall stewardship of the public health of Concord. It promotes, enacts, and enforces health rules and regulations in accordance with local bylaws and State law. There are five members of the Board, appointed for three-year terms by the Town Manager. In April, the Board elected Jack Bergman as Chairman. David Erickson joined the Board in September.

Regulations

As the public health regulatory entity for the Town, the Board endorses measures that can positively impact the public by promoting health and wellness. The Town of Concord and its Board of Health continue to be in the forefront in pursuing efforts to curb youth access to tobacco products and was one of the first towns/boards to adopt a bylaw prohibiting the sale of Tobacco to Minors. The Board of Health remains committed to this issue as well as eliminating youth access to (non-tobacco) nicotine delivery products such as e-cigarettes, flavored mints, lozenges and other items containing nicotine marketed to youth that have as much potential to cause addiction as tobacco. In 2013, the Board of Health began discussion to revise its regulation, "Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products". Proposed revisions to the regulation will include prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces; prohibiting the sale of single cigars and blunt wraps;

requiring businesses that sell non-FDA approved nicotine delivery devices to obtain a Sales Permit to sell these products; and prohibiting free samples or the use of reduced price coupons to purchase nicotine delivery products. It is expected that these revisions will be adopted in early 2014. The Board also initiated youth compliance checks, in which minors visit retail businesses and attempt to purchase tobacco or nicotine delivery products. These types of compliance checks have not been performed for the past ten years due to lack of funding for regional tobacco control districts, but are essential in helping reduce youth access to tobacco.

The Board spent significant time considering the issue of gun violence from a public health and safety perspective. The Board met with representatives of the Concord Police Department and Concord Public Schools to discuss school safety plans and the availability of mental health services to identify and treat students in need of help.

The Board held several discussions with members of the Agriculture Committee regarding its regulation “Minimum Standards for Keeping of Animals”. These discussions were held to ensure that the farming community understands the regulation and also understands the ways in which the animal regulation can protect animal owners when others register complaints about the presence of animals on a property.

Mosquito Control

The East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project conducts a program in Concord consisting of mosquito surveillance, larval mosquito control and public education.

Relatively dry spring conditions for the second consecutive spring resulted in below average mosquito populations from late May through most of June. Flooding rains during June produced an emergence of floodwater mosquitoes that resulted in high levels of mosquito activity through early August. Although the mosquito-borne disease risk declined from the previous year, there were eight Massachusetts residents who contracted West Nile Virus (WNV) in 2013 and one resident who contracted Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

The adult mosquito surveillance program monitored mosquitoes from 12 Concord trap collections during the season. During the summer and early fall, 12 batches of mosquitoes from Concord were sent to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to be tested for EEE and West Nile Virus. A batch is comprised of up to 50 mosquitoes of the same species from a survey trap. In late August, a batch of mosquitoes from Concord tested positive for West Nile Virus.

The larval mosquito control program relied on the larvicides Bacillus

thuringiensis var. israelensis (Bti) and *Bacillus sphaericus*, which are classified by the EPA as relatively non-toxic. Field crews using portable sprayers applied Bti in the summer to 7.5 wetland acres when high densities of mosquito larvae were found in stagnant water. In August, Project personnel applied packets containing *Bacillus sphaericus* to control *Culex* mosquito larvae at 2,547 catchbasins. *Culex* mosquitoes are considered the primary West Nile virus vectors.

The Project's public education program is designed to develop awareness within the public and private sectors as to their roles in mosquito control. The Project serves as a resource to residents, municipal officials and the local media on mosquitoes and mosquito borne diseases. A web page www.town.sudbury.ma.us/services/health/emmcpl/ provides residents with information on mosquitoes, control programs and related topics.

Health Division

Susan Rask, MS, RS, Public Health Director
 Stanley Sosnicki, CEHT, Assistant Public Health Director
 Gabrielle White, Public Health Inspector
 Karen Byrne, Administrative Assistant

The Health Division enforces State statutes and regulations relative to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions, and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution. Environmental and sanitary codes enforced by the Health Division include: onsite wastewater (septic) systems, food establishments, swimming pools, bathing beaches, summer camps, indoor ice skating rinks, housing, and lead paint. Administrative staff is responsible for assisting with annual flu clinics, the rabies control program, administration of the Septic Betterment Loan Program, and the issuance of approximately 500 annual licenses/permits.

Regional Public Health Services

The Concord Health Division has provided inspectional services to the Town of Lincoln under a regional contract since 1996. Over the past several years, the program has evolved from providing limited inspectional services to the administration of public health programs within the Town of Lincoln. The Assistant Public Health Director and Administrative Assistant are the primary contacts for providing services in Lincoln. In 2013, this program generated over \$30,000 in additional revenue for the Town of Concord (nearly 500 hours of public health and inspectional/administrative staff support).

The Assistant Health Director worked with the Lincoln Board of Health to update and revise the Board's on-site wastewater regulation. Other large projects included replacement of a failed large septic system at a

condominium which required an extensive amount of time working with engineers and residents to design and install a replacement septic system; and responding to a septic system damaged during the construction project on Rt. 2 at Crosby's Corner.

The Health Division continued to work cooperatively with surrounding towns to deliver effective public health programs. During the spring and summer, Concord worked with the towns of Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Lincoln, Wayland and Weston to develop educational materials on prevention of tick borne illnesses. The group received two grants totaling \$6,000, one from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the other from Community Health Network Area 15 (CHNA15) to create trail boxes and informational brochures which were placed on walking trails throughout all seven towns. A traveling display of educational materials and an on-line survey for residents to assess their knowledge about tick borne diseases were also created. Several tick-borne illnesses, including Lyme disease, Babesiosis, and Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (previously called Erlichiosis) are prevalent in our area, and awareness of how to prevent tick bites and when to seek medical help is critical to preventing these illnesses.

Healthy Community Planning Project

In April 2012, the Health Division received \$15,000 in grant funding from Massachusetts Department of Public Health Community Health Network Area (CHNA) 15 to undertake a Healthy Community planning project. The 18-month project, which concluded in September 2013, assessed overall well-being of our community by working to identify Concord's existing assets and resources, define our residents' needs, and determine opportunities for improvement. The project defines health in broad terms, as a measure of overall well-being and as a by-product of a wide-array of lifestyle and behavior-related choices and factors. Healthy communities continuously create and improve their physical and social environments and help people to support one another in aspects of daily life and to develop to their fullest potential. Healthy places are those designed and built to improve the quality of life for all people who live, work, worship, learn, and play within their borders.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TABLE

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	'07-'13 Median
Amebiasis	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Babesiosis	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1
Campylobacter	4	3	4	6	6	5	8	5
Cryptococcus	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cryptosporidia	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Dengue	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	-
E. Coli	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterovirus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Giardia	1	4	3	2	4	2	0	3
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis C*	6	19	68	23	5	2	10	10
H1N1 Influenza	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
HGA	0	0	5	8	1	1	0	1
Legionnaire's Disease	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Lyme Disease	29	84	48	46	11	7	11	29
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonella	3	5	4	4	3	2	12	4
Shigella	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	1
Streptococcal Pneumonia	2	2	2	1	1	0	1	2
Type B Streptococcus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

*All cases previous to 2011 included MCI Concord; MDPH now records those totals separately

During 2013, the Healthy Concord project completed two community surveys soliciting feedback from residents about what they think would make Concord a healthier place to live and work. A Community Forum was held in March 2013 with focus groups who discussed solutions to the key issues identified in the surveys and suggested solutions for implementation.

Two themes were repeated in interviews, surveys, and discussions: people of all ages in Concord are experiencing stress, with particular concern for youth, and there is desire for safer roads and paths for bicycling, sidewalks for walking, and better transportation in general. Based on what was learned in the public outreach process, the Steering Committee selected two priority areas for Healthy Concord implementation projects – a Town-wide Stress Reduction program, and a Road Safety initiative that incorporates bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians. Both of these priorities impact all segments of the community, and improvements to either will benefit both. CHNA15 awarded the Town of Concord a \$25,000 Implementation Grant in October 2013 to implement these initiatives over the coming 15 months.

The healthy community project is funded through the Northwest Suburban Health Alliance/CHNA 15 DoN funds from Lahey Clinic. There are 27 Community Health Networks within Massachusetts, each of which collaboratively identifies local and regional health priorities, designs community-based prevention plans, and tracks success in achieving healthier communities.



Healthy Concord Community Forum held March 30. Focus groups discussed solutions to the key issues identified in public outreach surveys and suggested solutions to make Concord a healthier community.

Emergency Preparedness

In 2013, the Health Division continued to work with the Concord Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Region 4A to further develop local public health emergency response capacity. This included the purchase of equipment to be used at the Town's shelter facility when it transitions to its new location at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

Permits & Licenses

The Health Division issued the following licenses and collected \$140,327.99 in permit fees: 197 Food Service/Retail Food (including farm stands, school cafeterias (private & public), food banks, churches, caterer operations, residential retail kitchens, mobile food trucks, bed & breakfast establishments); 17 Tobacco Sales; 84 Permits to Keep Farm Animals; 3 Bathing Beaches; 26 Swimming Pools; 50 Hazardous Material Storage/Usage; 2 Motels; 12 Recreational Camp Sites; 18 Day Camp Programs; 1 Tanning Facilities; 51 Registered Title 5 Inspectors, 90 Disposal Works Installers; 22 Septic Haulers; 13 Rubbish Haulers; 1 Body Art Establishment; 3 Body Art Technicians; 3 Funeral Directors; 2 Funeral Homes; 95 On-Site Sewage Disposal Permits; 191 Building Permit Reviews; and 17 Well Permits

Public Health Nursing/Communicable Disease Control

Under a contract with the Health Division, Emerson Hospital Home Care provided nursing services to staff for coordination and staffing of the annual influenza vaccination clinics, telephone and home visits to patients, and

investigation of reported cases of communicable diseases. The cases of communicable diseases are reported to the Health Division for inclusion in statistical reports prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for epidemiological purposes. This confidential information is maintained by the public health nurses and Administrative Assistant and routed to MDPH for appropriate follow-up action through the MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network).

Influenza Vaccine Distribution & Clinics

The Health Division sponsored its annual seasonal influenza clinic for Concord Seniors at the Harvey Wheeler Center on October 21. Emerson Hospital Home Care nurses administered vaccine to over 130 participants. Vaccine continues to be readily available from primary care physicians and local pharmacies throughout the year, therefore, cities and towns have seen attendance to these public clinics decrease; but, using State-supplied vaccine allows public health departments to continue to serve the at-risk population who may not be able to take advantage of those other venues.

The Town of Concord, through its Health Division, also sponsored a Seasonal Influenza Clinic for Town Employees in November. Emerson Hospital Home Care administered approximately 85 doses of vaccine to Town Employees during this clinic.

Bottled Water Bylaw

The Town bylaw, Sale of Drinking Water in Single-Serve PET Bottles, became effective January 1. Enforcement of this bylaw required many days of Health Division staff time. Approximately 110 inspections and 60 re-inspections were performed to ensure all retail stores and other venues were in compliance with the bylaw.

Sanitary Housing Inspections

The Assistant Public Health Director is responsible for conducting inspections for compliance with the State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.000, Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation. Health Division staff conducted 12 housing inspections and spent a significant amount of time working with tenants and property owners to resolve several complex housing situations.

Wastewater Permitting Program

Onsite Sewage Disposal/Building Reviews for Title 5 & Town Sewer

The Assistant Public Health Director oversees the onsite wastewater management (septic system) program in the Health Division. In 2013, the Division issued 118 permits for construction and/or alteration of septic

systems, reviewed 191 building permit applications for regulatory compliance, and witnessed percolation tests and soil evaluations for 88 properties. The Assistant Public Health Director conducted approximately 290 onsite inspections for compliance with Title 5. These numbers represent a more than 10% increase in the number of permits, building reviews and on-site inspections performed compared to 2012.

Septic System Betterment Loan Program

The Community Septic System Betterment Loan Program is administered by the Health Division Administrative Assistant. Through this program, Concord property owners can borrow up to \$30,000 at two percent (2%) interest, to be paid back as a betterment lien over 10 years.

The original loan/debt authorization (\$1,000,000) was approved by a Town Meeting vote in 2004 to borrow funds loaned by the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (MWPAT). In 2012, the funds from the initial loan were exhausted and the Health Department had successfully loaned out the full amount, assisting 58 property owners with financial assistance to defer the costs associated with replacing their residential onsite sewage disposal systems.

In 2009, Concord Town Meeting approved a 2nd debt authorization for a second loan of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of continuing to fund the program. After a decline in applications, inquiries began to increase in the summer and fall of 2013 and by year end an additional \$150,470 had been loaned out (6 properties). To date a total of \$475,185 has been expended from the 2nd loan. The Town is fortunate to be able to offer this type of financial assistance to its residents and the Health Division continues to actively promote it through increased advertisement, working with local engineers and septic installers, and other Town Departments.

Food Protection Program

The Public Health Inspector conducts risk-based inspections of Food Service Establishments ranging from complex meal service in full service restaurants to hospital kitchens to convenience store packaged food sales. This program has an emphasis on education and Active Managerial Control, providing facilities with guidance and systems-based approach to food safety.

2013 saw the opening of a number of new Food Service Establishments: Bondir, Haute Coffee, and Comella's at its new location on Main St. Trails End Café has begun construction for expansion and conversion to a bistro/bar. The food service facility at the new Concord-Carlisle Regional High School required extensive design reviews and is currently under construction. The former West Concord Supermarket closed and plans are underway for renovation of the building to create a farm-to-table restaurant.

Other food service facilities requiring review for renovation or expansions included Debra's Natural Gourmet, Concord Provisions, Nashoba Brooks Bakery, Concord Teacakes, and Crosby's Market. The Public Health Inspector allocates a substantial portion of time to working with applicants on complex projects of this type.

Food Inspections & Temporary Food Events

Temporary Food Event applications are reviewed by staff to identify and address any potential food safety risk factors that could impact the public health. In 2013, 52 Temporary Food Events/Catered Events were permitted, including Patriots' Day festivities, Chamber of Commerce Spring/Fall Festival, the Memorial Day and Fourth of July Parades, and the fall Agricultural Fair.

2013 FOOD SERVICE/RETAIL PERMITS

- 37 Retail Food Permits
- 43 Food Service Operations
 - 9 Farm Stands
 - 9 Public School Cafeterias
 - 6 Religious Organizations
 - 1 Food Bank
 - 1 Sporting Event Food Service
 - 2 Mobile Food Trucks
 - 9 Caterers Base of Operations
 - 3 Food Processors
 - 7 Frozen Ice cream
- 14 Delis in Retail Establishments
 - 6 Nursing Homes/Assisted Living
 - 1 Hospital/In-Patient Kitchen
 - 4 Private School Cafeterias
 - 1 Home for Aged Community
 - 4 Seasonal Food Operations
 - 2 B&B with Food Service
 - 2 Daycare with Food Service
 - 4 Rental Hall Kitchens
 - 5 Residential Retail Kitchens
- 11 Milk/Cream Permits
 - 2 Community Assistance Food Groups

Recreational Camp Program

The Public Health Inspector reviewed 18 programs which meet the definition of "recreational camp" and which served 5,378 campers in summer 2013. Programs were reviewed for compliance with regulatory requirements: background checks on staff, health records, trained personnel, and medical protocols; safety checks on all facilities with high risk activities such as ropes courses are also reviewed and inspected. There are 12 sites which either host their own camp programs and/or serve as a rental location to "out of town" programs.

Bathing Beach Program

The Health Division continued its contract with G&L Laboratories, Quincy, MA, to provide services for collection and analysis of bathing beach water samples. Samples are taken weekly at the 3 semi-public beaches, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, for compliance with 105 CMR 445.00, Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches. 50 water samples were collected from the 3 beaches over a 16 week time period. There was one one-day beach closure during the 2013 season due to bacterial levels exceeding acceptable limits for bathing beach waters.

Ice Rink Air Quality

The Concord Health Division licenses 2 indoor ice rinks (Valley Sports and Middlesex School's Atkins Hockey Rink); when applicable, the Public Health Inspector observes and reviews testing data for air quality for indoor ice rinks that use combustion engines for ice resurfacing. As of November 2011, neither licensed facility was using this type of machine to resurface the ice. Both facilities are utilizing electric ice re-surfacers that do not require air quality testing per 105 CMR 675.00, as they no longer utilize re-surfacers which produce exhaust containing carbon monoxide or nitrogen oxide. .

Swimming Pools

There are 13 sites in Concord that hold recreational pool permits. There are currently 4 general-purpose pools, 13 lap pools, 6 children's pools, 3 special purpose pools and 1 diving well. The Public Health Inspector conducts water tests at each pool as well as monitors safety equipment and trained personal for each site.

Animal Permits

The Public Health Inspector serves as the Town's Animal Inspector. 80 properties were inspected for sanitary conditions, health of the animals and proper manure storage/removal to prevent odors and pests. There appears to be a growing trend for backyard farmers in Concord, especially residents who keep chickens.

2009-2013					
ANIMAL CENSUS INFORMATION					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Chickens	716	1,056	1,368	3,211	3,418
Horses	166	164	163	182	171
Cattle	217	243	178	255	220
Rabbits	70	78	112	200	0
Goats	17	10	13	21	21
Geese/Ducks	23	29	38	37	46
Guinea Hens	14	9	8	7	7
Sheep	10	15	1	4	14
Beehives	4	4	-	-	-
Llamas	0	0	-	-	-
Donkeys	2	2	3	2	6
Turkey	5	7	8	57	57
Pigs	12	10	2	15	0
TOTAL	1,256	1,627	1,894	3,991	3,960

Rabies Control Program

During 2013, 24 domestic animals (dogs & cats) were quarantined by either the Concord Health Division or the Dog Control Officer Les Boardman due to contact with potentially rabid animals. 13 domestic animals were quarantined and followed by Dog Officer because of animal bites to humans. Rabies tests were conducted on 11 potentially rabid animals (7 bats, 1 cat, 2 dogs and 1 skunk). None of the animals tested positive for the rabies virus.

At the Health Division's Annual Rabies Clinic in March, Concord Animal Hospital veterinarians administered the rabies vaccine to 31 dogs and 11 cats.

Emerson Hospital Home Care Services

Brian Hailey, MSPT Director

Emerson Hospital Home Care is a Medicare/Medicaid Certified, Joint Commission Accredited, provider of home health services in Concord, as well as 29 surrounding towns. Home Care is an active member of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts. The mission is to deliver high quality, safe, and cost effective services to our patients. These services include skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, home health aide, and medical social work. Emerson Home Care continues to grow to meet the demands for skilled services in the home as hospital "length of stay" continues to decrease. We partner with community and tertiary medical centers to reduce the incidence of re-hospitalizations. We have expanded to a 29-town service area to accommodate requests of referral sources and our patients.

Home Care accepts referrals for services from Emerson Hospital, other local community and tertiary hospitals, physician offices, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, and referrals from patients with a physician's order for home care. Members of the community can contact Home Care directly

for skilled services for themselves or family members. Emerson Home Care partners with community members to provide services at home after a hospitalization, during a prolonged illness, or when a skilled need arises and the client is home bound. The goal of home care services is always to promote the highest state of wellness and independence, and to assist in planning for the continuum of care. Home Care also provides community health and communicable disease follow up in accordance with our contract with the Town of Concord.

Although Emerson Hospital Home Care does not have a hospice program, we continue to work closely with several area hospice providers, including Hospice of the North Shore and Greater Boston. Emerson Home Care continues to provide end of life care for those patients who decide not to enroll in a hospice program.

The home care department plays an integral role in the organization's focus on enhancing the care of the growing elderly population in the communities we serve. This includes ongoing meetings with members of the community, as well as initiatives within the care environment in the hospital. Using our disease management programs, the home care department continues the success in decreasing emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and length of stay in several diagnostic groups to include chronic lung disease and congestive heart failure. The department has participated in a nationwide effort by CMS to reduce unnecessary acute care re-hospitalizations and our reportable rate remains below the State and national averages. The home care department remains active on the "Care Transitions" committee whose focus is to improve care transitions and reduce unnecessary re-hospitalizations.

Emerson Home Care services residents of Concord Park, Newbury Court/ Newbury Commons, and residents of the Concord Housing Authority, to name a few. This has allowed these residents to successfully age in place, and remain out of an institution. Home Care also coordinates closely with the Concord Council on Aging to promote health and wellness to seniors through lectures and other programs. Home Care also works closely with Minuteman Senior Services to coordinate services to help residents of Concord and our surrounding towns to age in place.

Our contract with the Town of Concord includes communicable disease follow-up and an influenza vaccination program. The contract also allows Home Care to make home visits to qualifying individuals who have no source of payment to cover our services. This remains an important aspect of our work with the Town. The influenza vaccination program serves both residents and employees of the Town of Concord.

In accordance with our contract, Emerson Home Care continues to work closely with the Board of Health and with other community organizations to coordinate care for the residents of Concord. We will continue to work with

the Town and organizations to identify areas of opportunity to serve the Town's residents in an effort to promote health and wellness. Home Care is also represented on the Emerson Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee which works with the Town of Concord to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts.

2229 Main Street Advisory Committee

Pam Rockwell, Chair
Paul Boehm
Deborah Farnsworth
Len Rappoli
Fred Seward
Steve Verrill

The 2229 Main Street Advisory Committee was formed to monitor the cleanup at the site previously occupied by Starmet, formerly Nuclear Metals, Inc. (NMI), a former defense contractor. This site was put on the EPA national priorities list in 2001 and is now a superfund site. Currently the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for remediating the contamination at the site. The investigation has determined the extent of the contamination at the site and the pathways by which the public and wildlife may be exposed to risk. The feasibility study will develop possible cleanup strategies. EPA has hired the consulting firm de maximis inc. to conduct the RI/FS.

The site is contaminated with depleted uranium in the soil and water, and beryllium inside the buildings. There are also PCBs located in most of the areas where there is uranium contamination in surface soil. (These areas are all close to buildings and enclosed by fences.) A deep, slow moving plume of uranium in the ground water above the bedrock has also been identified heading from the former holding basin, under the buildings, in the direction of the Assabet River. A large concentration of uranium below the old holding basin extends into the water table and is the source of the groundwater contamination. The level of the organic chemical dioxane in bedrock under the site is also substantial enough to require remediation, and volatile organic compounds deep under the site may pose a vapor hazard to buildings that are built on the site in the future.

The 2229 Main Street Advisory Committee meets regularly with EPA and environmental advocacy group CREW to discuss the technical details of the cleanup. In 2013, EPA asked for the committee to review possible remediation strategies for the site and to consider the future uses of the site. The Committee supports cleanup options that include removing contaminated soils and sediments and disposing of them offsite. The Committee prefers that uranium contamination under the holding basin that is too deep to remove be contained with well-proven technology such as adding cement

down to the bedrock to turn the contaminated soils into concrete. And the committee believes that in the future, the Town of Concord may wish to use this site for solar energy production, vehicle maintenance and storage, affordable housing, and/or recreation. In written comments, the Town communicated to EPA that the Town would like the site remediated so that all of the land can be used after the cleanup, and there will not be restrictions on activities on the surface.

Work is in progress to disassemble the buildings. De maximis set up new loading docks and scales and packed and removed almost 3 million pounds of contaminated materials from inside the buildings (152 container trucks and 2 tank trucks.) Committee member Len Rappoli toured the buildings at the Starmet site and observed the progress that has been made sorting and removing materials inside the building. The plans call for the big machines in the building to be disassembled and removed in early 2014, and the buildings themselves to be removed shortly afterwards. There is 24-hour private security and automatic gates allow Concord Fire and Police to enter the property and drive around the entire building complex at any time of the day or night.

2229 Main Street Advisory Committee meetings always include time to answer questions from concerned citizens. EPA project manager Melissa Taylor is in Concord regularly to meet with Town staff and for technical group meetings with CREW and the 2229 Main Street Advisory Committee. She is also available to meet with citizens who have personal concerns about activities at the site. More information about the Starmet cleanup can be found at the following websites. The Committee does not have control over the content of these sites:

- www.nmisite.org is the website created by the contractor de maximis inc. It includes a list of the current activities at the site, including data and maps from the sampling that has been completed.
- EPA descriptions of the site is at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/nar1605.htm>
- <http://www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/nmi/287738.pdf> is an EPA fact sheet about the building removal project at the site.