

Throop consultant to recommend lead testing

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2 homes seek test for lead

THROOP - Environmental consultants for the borough will recommend the Environmental Protection Agency test two homes for lead contamination, officials said.

Rocco DiPietro of Cocciardi & Associates said he'll advise homes owned by Bob Mattioli and Charles Reed be tested after hearing complaints from both residents at a borough council meeting Monday.

"We just want an answer where it's coming from," said Mr. Mattioli, whose soil and pool water have tested high for lead, he said.

Both properties are located near the former Marjol battery site, owned by Gould Electronics, which housed a plant that reclaimed lead from car batteries.

A second excavation of the site began March 25. Lead contaminated materials, including battery casings and soil, will be capped by concrete when the project is complete.

Mr. DiPietro said it would be best for the EPA to conduct the testing to ensure it's done right.

"Unless you use the proper methodology, everyone is going to question the results," he said.

Air tests conducted at Mr. Reed's home June 22 and 26 showed lead levels below the maximum set by the EPA - 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter. A corresponding sample sent in by Advanced GeoServices, project coordinator for Gould, showed levels that exceeded the maximum, Mr. DiPietro said.

As a result, the EPA has requested additional samples for testing, he said.

Though sporadic spikes in lead levels have proved disconcerting for residents, Mr. DiPietro said officials would be more concerned by sustained high levels, which they have not seen.

Barbara Forslund of Advanced GeoServices said excavation has been completed along Grove and Delaware streets, except for an area surrounding a utility pole.

Crews are expected to move on to the next phase later this month.

"They're progressing with plans for the solidification process," she said.

The project is running slightly behind schedule due to rain and site reshaping work, she said.

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