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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ehs/>

October 19, 2011

Re: Planned Work at the Rennie Farm Property

Dear Homeowner:

Dartmouth College, through our Office, is planning to excavate a small area on the Rennie Farm property this fall. Because you live close to this property, I wanted to let you know about this work, tell you why we are undertaking the project, and provide my contact information so that you can reach me if you have any additional questions.

For about a decade starting in the mid-1960's, a quarter-acre to half-acre plot on the Rennie property was used to bury the remains of small research animals from the Dartmouth Medical School (DMS). At the time, this was an accepted practice used by medical schools throughout the United States and done with the knowledge of regulatory agencies. Beginning in the mid 1970's, other disposal methods made burial less efficient and practical and the practice ended—including at DMS.

Five years ago, our Office began an evaluation project to better identify the location of the burial plots, to determine if hazardous materials were present and to identify what it would take to remove the buried material, returning the site to a natural state. In the course of our work, we found no evidence of hazardous materials in the soil or ground water. In the long run, we feel that removing the waste and restoring the site is the best option.

In the coming weeks, we will begin mobilizing equipment and personnel on the site to start the excavation. Excavated materials will be packaged, temporarily placed into refrigerated trailers, and then transported to a licensed facility for incineration. When excavation work is concluded, we will re-grade and restore the site. In order to better help you understand the project, I have included an annotated aerial photograph of the Rennie Farm site showing the area to be remediated, how we will access the site, and where trailers will be located.

If you have any questions regarding our work at the Rennie Farm site, please feel free to call me at (603) 646-1762.

Thank you.

Regards—
Michael B. Blayney, Ph.D.
Director
Environmental Health & Safety