

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095
For information online, visit www.des.nh.gov
James P. Martin, Public Information Officer
(603) 271-3710; jmartin@des.state.nh.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Sherry Godlewski, 603-271-6801

DES hosts Public Meeting regarding the Public Health Assessment for Liberty Hill Road

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Environmental Health Program (DES) will host a public meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2008 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Gilford Town Offices. DES staff will present the findings of the draft *Public Health Assessment for the Liberty Hill Road Site*. DES conducted the study and prepared the report under its cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Residents have been concerned about potential health effects from the coal tar that was deposited in the Liberty Hill area after Laconia's Messer Street Manufactured Gas Plant was destroyed in an explosion in the early 1950s.

The draft Public Health Assessment was released on March 24, 2008. The public comment period extends until April 25, 2008. After the presentation DES staff will be available for questions. Concerns will be recorded (notes will be taken during the session) and addressed in the final Public Health Assessment. The concerns will be listed and answered anonymously.

DES' Environmental Health Program is a non-regulatory section of DES. Our mission is to review environmental and health data and to make recommendations to protect public health. A Public Health Assessment is our most comprehensive level of analysis of potential environmental impacts on public health.

The Public Health Assessment can be accessed at <http://des.nh.gov/whatsnew.htm> or e-mail dennis.pinski@des.nh.gov to request a copy or provide comments. For more information contact Dennis Pinski at (603) 271-6909.

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