

Grandview Hills Elementary-Leander ISD

Site Background and Current Activity

November 2008

In September 2006 Leander Independent School District (LISD) contracted to purchase property that was previously owned by Sasol North America, Inc. The company originally developed the property and maintained an office and testing laboratory center on the site between 1989 and 2006. The chemical research and development conducted by Sasol involved developing new products and improving existing products related to surfactants and detergents. In addition, 6 companies leased space at the facility between 2000 and 2006 conducting various types of research.

LISD renovated one of the 6 buildings into Grandview Hills Elementary School. A Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment was performed at the site by PBS&J in November 2006. PBS&J recommended further environmental testing.

LISD hired Weston Solutions, Inc. to conduct an evaluation of the soil, air, and interior building materials. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the building's interiors and grounds for any residual chemicals from historical activities that might present a health or safety risk to the children and adults that would occupy the school and district support facilities.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) became involved in February 2007 to assist LISD and Weston. The EPA requested the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) prepare a [Pre-CERCLIS](#) Screening Checklist for the site (due to its large size, a complete copy of the Pre-CERCLIS report can be obtained via the Weston link below). A Pre-CERCLIS was used to assess any potential environmental hazards on the site and to determine whether further investigation was necessary. Based on the results of the investigation and agency recommendations, LISD acted to ensure the upmost safety of the school and occupants by excavating contaminated soil, removing possible mold found on the exterior building walls, investigating groundwater, and installing a vapor recovery system to remove low level concentrations of chemicals from beneath the foundation of the building that were detected in a localized area.

Weston and the EPA are continuing to monitor and test the efficacy of the vapor recovery system, which has been installed under a portion of the building. This system will continue to operate until any elevated concentrations of chemicals beneath the building are removed. All test results will be communicated to our community via the LISD GVHE website.

The EPA, TCEQ, Texas Department of State Health Services, Agency for Toxic Substances, and the City of Austin have all determined that the school is safe for occupancy, given the thorough remediation and corrective measures LISD has undertaken.

If you would like to know more about this, please contact the facilities department at 434-5066 with any questions. Documents related to the environmental history of the school are available at: <http://grandviewhills.leanderisd.org/westonsolutions/>