



The Saint Paul Port Authority is delighted to announce the successful completion of soil cleanup activities at The Heights (the former Hillcrest Golf Course), marking a significant milestone in The Heights redevelopment. Beginning in early August 2023, these efforts primarily focused on the removal of shallow contaminated soils from the site.

The contamination at The Heights originated from various sources, including the historical use of mercury-containing fungicides at the former golf course, as well as localized areas of petroleum contamination from former leaking storage tanks and debris intermixed with soil from previous golf course operations.

In total, 110,442 tons (approximately 73,628 cubic yards) of contaminated material was carefully excavated and appropriately disposed of at a permitted landfill.

The post-excavation soil sampling and testing, mandated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), have returned highly favorable results. These results demonstrate that the remaining soils at The Heights property now meet the stringent cleanup standards required for residential use, affirming the effectiveness of our remediation efforts.

Furthermore, to ensure the safety of the surrounding environment, dust monitoring and air testing were conducted throughout the duration of the remediation activities. Multiple dust meters were installed to continuously monitor for any potential contamination, while multiple air samples were collected weekly for laboratory analysis. We are pleased to report that all laboratory tests confirmed the absence of mercury in the air samples collected from around the site, underscoring our commitment to maintaining air quality standards and protecting the health of our community.

Currently, we are in the process of preparing a comprehensive report documenting the cleanup efforts for submission to the MPCA and the MDA. Upon their review of the report, we anticipate receiving cleanup implementation approval letters and/or no further action letters, further validating the success of our remediation endeavors.

This achievement reflects our unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship and our ongoing commitment to fostering a safe and sustainable community for all. We look forward to the continued progress and prosperity of The Heights as we strive towards a cleaner and healthier future.