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**A Message from Montgomery Mayor Cecilia X. Birge  
NPDC/SKILLMAN VILLAGE SITE CLEAN-UP**

As Montgomery Township finally closes on the North Princeton Developmental Center (NPDC) property - a true milestone - the clean-up of the site has naturally come to the forefront in many people's minds. A great deal of work has been done and is being done now to carefully prepare for clean-up, selected demolition, and abatement of remaining asbestos insulation on pipelines and other materials - always with the public health and safety first and foremost in our considerations.

Montgomery Township has signed a contract with Weston Solutions, Inc. to clean up the property. Weston is a leader in the field of environmental remediation with an outstanding safety record. They have already performed thorough research and due diligence studies of the site conditions at NPDC to determine their scope of work. The demolition and abatement contract has not yet been awarded. As of press time, the Township is writing the bid specifications very carefully to ensure that only the best, most experienced practitioners will have the necessary qualifications to earn the contract, which by law must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The Township also has hired J.M. Sorge, Inc. as additional independent oversight entity on the environmental clean up and demolition.

Carefully crafting Health and Safety Plans and seeing to it that they are meticulously followed – one for the environmental remediation work and one for the demolition and abatement – is a task the Administration and Township Committee take very seriously. These plans are required by law to protect workers, but in this case they also will carefully address health and safety precautions and protections of children, teachers and staff at the Village Elementary School, located near the center of the NPDC site. For example, no remediation or demolition work of any kind will take place closer than 300 feet from the edge of the 12 acre school property while school is in session. While the summer months will be a time of work concentration, doing this work properly means not rushing it. It is anticipated that the demolition can be completed in 4 to 5 months.

The Health and Safety Plans will be prepared with input from environmental remediation and oversight experts, as well as from school officials, the general public, and local safety experts including Montgomery Police Department, Montgomery Office of Emergency Management, Montgomery fire companies and emergency medical service (EMS) representatives.

To enhance communication with involved residents such as parents, teachers and neighbors, the Township is setting up a NPDC Community Advisory Panel whose charge will include giving input on the health and safety plans and the remediation planning in general. Each group will select their own representative to this panel, and the Township Committee will appoint two at-large members.

Township officials will take special care to keep school officials and the community informed and engaged throughout the cleanup and planning processes. A series of lengthy public meetings have and will be held to give residents and especially parents and teachers several convenient opportunities to pose questions and offer comments.

A series of question & answer forums for Village School and Orchard Hill School parents are scheduled for the last week of January and are being announced through school channels.

A township-wide public meeting will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Otto Kaufman Community Center, 356 Skillman Rd., behind the Skillman Post Office. This is now posted on our website and will be delivered via Township newsletter, Township “e-bulletins” (sign up at [www.twp.montgomery.nj.us](http://www.twp.montgomery.nj.us)), Channel 14, newspapers, and school backpack mail.

No remediation or demolition work will begin until after these public forums are held and resident comments considered.

The Montgomery Township web site contains a great deal of information about the NPDC project. We encourage you to use it as a resource ([www.twp.montgomery.nj.us](http://www.twp.montgomery.nj.us)). There are more than 70 Frequently Asked Questions, meetings dates and much planning information. To receive e-bulletins, pose additional questions for the FAQ or to get a paper copy of the questions and answers, contact community information officer Tamara Garaffa at 908-359-8211 ext. 207. I am also available to take your questions. Rest assured that your municipal government is here to serve you – and all of Montgomery’s residents.