

It's a little late, but Marjol work should be done soon

BY CAITLIN HEANEY (STAFF WRITER)

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TIMES-TRIBUNE FILE Work progresses at the Marjol Battery site in May. Officials expect the project to be finished in mid-July.

Work to contain contaminated soil at the Marjol Battery site in Throop has been delayed but is expected to be finished this month.

Spring weather conditions caused some parts of the cleanup to take longer than expected, pushing the project past the anticipated June 30 completion date, said Lisa Ayers, spokeswoman for Advanced GeoServices. The planned completion date now is mid-July.

Advanced GeoServices represents property owner Gould Electronics Inc. in the cleanup of soil with lead contaminants from the Marjol site, a nearby wooded property Gould also owned, and toxic lead battery casings. Work began in July 2008.

The materials were moved to the 10-acre containment site, where they were sealed under a layer of clean soil solidified with a concrete-type mixture, fabric, plastic and soil. Topsoil, grass seed and erosion-control materials now are being added, Ms. Ayers said.

Sediment, groundwater and perimeter air monitoring will continue for varying periods after the project's completion, as will site inspections and grass mowing.

Borough council member Ray Jarosh, who had not yet spoken to Gould about the change in the estimated completion date, said most of the time estimates previously received had not been accurate. Weather has been a factor, however.

"I know heavy rains do kind of affect them quite a bit because right now, until the grass starts to grow, it's just a big mudhole," Mr. Jarosh said. "They've been seeding, and they're having problems getting anything to grow."

On Wednesday, Gould will hold its annual blood lead screening program, which it started voluntarily in the 1980s "as a service to the community," Ms. Ayers said.

The screening is open to Throop residents 12 years old or younger or anyone previously tested, but Ms. Ayers said no one will be turned away. Testing will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Throop Borough Civic Center, 500 Sanderson St.

Contact the writer: cheaney@timeshamrock.com