

No plans to move fire academy

Perchlorate clean up brings continued interest

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The Barnstable County Fire Training Academy won't be moving any time soon.

As county officials review the clean up of the recently-discovered perchlorate plume, there are no plans to move the academy to another location.

"Certainly we'll always have detractors who believe it isn't in the right spot," Lance Lambros, chairman of the Barnstable County Commissioners, told the county Assembly Wednesday afternoon.

Lambros believes the academy's training facilities serve too important a purpose to put on hold or discontinue for a move.

Commissioner Bill Doherty added that other concerns make a move for the academy difficult.

"It's kind of tough to relocate when you don't own a lot of land," he told the Assembly.

The perchlorate plume extending some 1,000 feet underground from the academy has hit one public supply well for the town-owned Hyannis water system, though at levels below state reporting standards.

The perchlorate groundwater contamination from the Barnstable County Fire Training Academy was found to be caused solely by used flares discarded on the grounds at Mary Dunn Road, Lambros said.

Clean up of the flares and Hyannis plume is now under way. Recirculating wells will be installed for the water to, "stop it, pump it up, treat it, and pump it back in," said Lambros.

Doherty added that remaining perchlorate waste is being stored in 55-gallon drums for future disposal in order to prevent new contamination.

The county is, "attempting to find a vendor in order to dispose of it offsite," said Doherty.

In addition, said Doherty, flare use has been discontinued at the academy. EPA-

approved, perchlorate-free flares will be used in future training at the academy.

Assembly members raised concerns that an outside party is needed to review the clean-up.

Currently, the, "same party [is] evaluating the problem as created it," said Barnstable delegate Tom Lynch.

Lambros said the county has experience evaluating health and environmental contamination problems, "because we have done some testing before," adding that the remediation will be held to Massachusetts EPA standards in this case as well, and doesn't believe third-party bias will be a concern.