

**Dearborn Heights School District No. 7**  
**Asbestos Press Statement**

1. The health, safety and welfare of all District students, employees, and community members is of the utmost importance to the Board of Education and District administration.
  - a. The District contracted with Nova Environmental for the last several years, an environmental consultant who is an expert in the field of environmental compliance and abatement, to ensure proper compliance with all applicable OSHA and Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) regulations.
    - Nova has over 25 years of experience in asbestos consultation with School Districts, to aid in developing processes and procedures to ensure compliance with applicable asbestos regulations. These compliance procedures were implemented immediately when Nova was hired.
    - When it is necessary to disturb or remove building components that are asbestos, a Michigan Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor is used and Nova Environmental, Inc. frequently is on-site conducting air sample collection at the request of the District that goes above and beyond the regulatory standard requirements. Nova Environmental, Inc., in many cases, requires the Contractor to use practices that go above and beyond the existing stringent legal requirements. Furthermore, much of the air sampling that Nova performs goes above and beyond the regulatory standard requirements. This is done, at additional cost to the District, in order to demonstrate to staff and parents that we do take asbestos very seriously.
    - Upon determination of planned asbestos removal to occur during the Summer of 2016, (mostly floor tile), even though not required by law, a courtesy correspondence was sent to MIOSHA listing all of the projects scheduled so they would have knowledge of what asbestos activities were occurring within our District.
    - The District has consistently gone above and beyond legal requirements since 2013 to ensure all building materials are abated in a safe manner. To that end, the District has spent more than legally required to ensure that all students and staff attend school in a safe environment.
  - b. **Nova’s and MIOSHA’s tests demonstrate that there has been absolutely no finding of asbestos exposure above the legal limits imposed by OSHA or the EPA to any students, employees, or community members.**

2. There have been numerous and repeated allegations of asbestos exposure in District buildings over the last four years which are unfounded and untrue as evidenced by Nova Environmental's testing protocols and continued compliance with OSHA and EPA standards.
  - Since hiring Nova, Dearborn Heights School District # 7 has been audited for asbestos compliance by the EPA and has had multiple visits by MIOSHA due to complaints by staff. There have been no violations issued as a result of these investigations.
  - Each year, all District custodial and maintenance staff are provided asbestos awareness training that includes the types and locations of asbestos within the District and who to contact with questions or concerns.
  - The District conducts asbestos periodic surveillance every six months, asbestos reinspections every three years, and asbestos notification annually in order to ensure compliance with the EPA's AHERA regulation.
  - In order to ensure the organization of the vast quantities of asbestos recordkeeping required by law, Dearborn Heights School District # 7 has scanned and converted all asbestos documentation onto CDs. This ensures that anyone can easily view our District's asbestos records on the District's website.
3. The litigation and claims referenced in news articles are employment and constitutional disputes, and are not claims that the District has exposed anyone to asbestos-containing materials. The District disputes these employment and constitutional claims, and is in the process of defending and appealing such claims. Therefore, the District cannot comment further on such claims.
4. The alleged fabricated 2012 report that testing of dust was negative for asbestos-containing materials, and referenced in several news articles, is under on-going forensic investigation by an independent third-party. The District believed testing at the time was done properly and relied on the report. The District takes this issue very seriously, and has engaged Andy Arena, the former chief of the Detroit FBI office, and Ellis Stafford, a former Inspector and Assistant Division Commander of the Michigan State Police's Special Operations Division, to investigate this matter further to determine if there was any wrongdoing on behalf of District employees or if there should be charges brought against third-party District consultants. Mr. Arena and Mr. Stafford are also currently investigating the Flint water allegations. The District cannot comment further on this issue because it is the subject of continued litigation.
5. As stated earlier, the health, safety and welfare of all community members is of the utmost importance. The District acknowledges that there have been some procedural and

notice irregularities with respect to cleaning certain building materials in the District. As a result, the District has spared no expense at ensuring everyone in the buildings is safe, and that proper procedures are followed. That is why the District hired Nova Environmental, experts in this field, to advise and assist the District with the monitoring of student, staff and community member safety. Further, if there are any additional allegations of irregularities, the District will act in an expeditious manner to correct any such irregularities to continue to promote a safe environment for anyone who enters a Dearborn Heights School District No. 7 building.

6. Nova Environmental will be present at the Board's September 6, 2016 meeting to address the District's compliance and commitment to safety in more detail.