

University Crossing
Request to the Madison Plan Commission
Groundwater Sub Committee Members of the University Crossing Committee
for the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association
18 September 2011

The Groundwater Sub Committee Members of the University Crossing Committee for the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association is submitting this letter as record of the concerns we have with soil and groundwater issues at the proposed University Crossing project site.

The proposed University Crossing project site is situated within the Well Head Protection Zone for Well Number 14, which poses increased environmental cautions for the safety of our environment and the people in the adjacent neighborhoods. In addition, because of the complexity of the City of Madison's water utilities system, the water from Well Number 14 during certain periods of the year will be serving people through out the City of Madison.

Samples taken at Well Number 14 have indicated ever-increasing amounts of the highly toxic heavy metal Chromium VI [Cr(VI)]. Since the amounts of Cr(VI) are ever increasing and not decreasing, this increase indicates an on-going source of Cr(VI). Current research has stated the Cr (VI) is not naturally occurring and is due to industrial wastes such as lumber preservatives, anticorrosive agents and welding on stainless steel or melting chromium metal. Chromium III [Cr(III)] also can be converted to Cr(VI) by oxidation using high temperatures or chemicals. It is noted that Cr(III) is a naturally occurring element.

Our concerns stem from the fact that the boring samples taken from the University Crossing project site were only drilled to the depth of 15 feet, which is sufficient for soil bearing tests for foundation design. This depth does not address our sub committee's concerns for soil and groundwater contaminants.

To address our concerns, we respectfully request that sampling be completed by using at least three borings: two at the north edge of the proposed property and one at the south edge of the proposed property. During the boring process, sampling is to be done every 20 feet to include the water table, bedrock and areas in between. We also suggest that two other borings be done in between the north and south edges. That would be a total of five borings on the proposed University Crossing project site to test for soil and groundwater contaminants. We request that each sampling be chemically analyzed including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organics and organics, including pentachlorophenol (PCP), Cr(III) and Cr(VI).

We request that all additional assessment of soil and groundwater conditions be conducted prior to development of the proposed University Crossing project.

Our sub committee members want to thank each member of the Plan Commission for reviewing this letter and attaching it to the Legislative file system so it is a permanent part of the record for this proposed University Crossing project.