1. Air Monitoring by GZA

On March 2nd, 2017, the weather conditions at UMASS Boston included sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts of up to about 50 mph (reference: National Weather Service). As a result of these extraordinary weather conditions, GZA observed visible dust throughout the Campus. The dust did not appear to be generated by specific construction activities. JDC continually wetted both work areas and road surfaces by water truck and fire hydrants in an effort to suppress dust as much as possible. GZA’s dust monitoring and EH&E’s asbestos air monitoring did not show any exceedances of action levels.

While onsite during the month of March, GZA monitored air for dust, VOCs, and combustible gasses along the perimeter of the work limits, and within GZA’s “breathing zone,” using a Thermo MIE pDR-1000 DataRam Dust Monitor (total dust meter), a Thermo Scientific MIE pDR-1500 (PM10 dust meter), a MiniRae3000 Organic Vapor Meter, and a MultiRae Model PGM-6228 5-Gas Monitor. No total dust or PM10 dust readings recorded on the Dust Monitors exceeded the action level thresholds. No readings above background levels were detected by the 5-Gas Monitor. No OVM readings exceeded the action levels.

GZA observed visible dust at the UMASS Campus on March 2 and 3, 2017. The MassDEP was notified of these events. April 11, 2017 File No. 03.0033930.00 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

On March 3rd, 2017, GZA observed visible dust within a fenced-in work zone, generated by a combination of sustained winds and construction (vehicular) traffic within the former Track area. During the day, the contractor routinely sprays water on the construction road surfaces using a water truck. Following the observation of dust, the contractor immediately halted construction traffic and took additional corrective action by applying more water to the roadway surface prior to resuming construction traffic. GZA observed that the majority of the plume of visible dust did not extend further than about 20 feet from the construction roadway. GZA’s dust monitoring and EH&E’s asbestos air monitoring did not show any exceedances of action levels.

Following the observations on March 2 and 3, 2017, EH&E spoke with MassDEP regarding the communication protocol with MassDEP to be employed in the event that visible dust is generated by onsite materials. The UMASS UCRR project team has revised the communication protocol for notifying all appropriate MassDEP personnel in the event of visible dust.

2. Air Monitoring by EH&E

During the month of March, Environmental Health and Engineering (EH&E) was on site sampling air around excavation and work areas for asbestos fibers in accordance with EH&E’s Perimeter Asbestos Air Monitoring Plan, provided as Attachment 1 to URAM Status Report No. 7. At least four monitoring stations were operated around each UCRR work area involving excavation, stockpiling, management, or loading potentially asbestos contaminated soil. The samples were analyzed for total airborne fibers, including but not specific to asbestos, using Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM). All the results during the month of March 2017 were below the MassDEP-specified action level of 0.010 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc). PCM results have been provided to the MassDEP on a daily basis in accordance with the Plan.

3. Construction Observation, Environmental Controls, and Compliance

a. GZA and EH&E conducted monitoring/sampling for dust and asbestos fibers, respectively.
b. GZA monitored the perimeter of the work zones to confirm that fencing or barriers were in place to prevent public access.

c. GZA visually observed the moistness of the onsite materials and confirmed that misting or wetting of subgrades, stockpiles, and truck loads was applied as needed to proactively control dust.

d. GZA and EH&E monitored trucks hauling on-site material and observed them to be covered.

e. During loading of trucks for off-site disposal of materials, GZA, EH&E, and Bond observed truck placarding. Bond photographed each side of each truck, showing the placards and license plate.

Throughout the period of this Summary Report, GZA made visual observations of the excavated material and provided recommendations to the project team for excavated material management and reuse. During each work day on which potentially contaminated material was managed, excavated, stockpiled, or otherwise handled, GZA maintained a monitoring checklist for the environmental controls at each work zone. When non-compliance was observed, the contractor immediately halted work and took measures to conform to the compliance requirements prior to resuming work. The following is a list of the primary environmental controls being implemented at the Site:

f. GZA monitored for the presence of a water truck, hydrant with a hose, or other readily available stationary source of water at each work zone and at each wheel wash, to be used as necessary to proactively prevent dust.

g. GZA made observations for the presence of visible dust.

h. GZA monitored for spillage of onsite material onto public roads.

i. GZA monitored for the condition and usage of wheel wash stations for equipment decontamination.

j. GZA, EH&E, BOND, and NV5 observed bulk loading of trucks daily to evaluate activities and controls relative to the approved NT Plan.

k. If the installation of a wheel wash station was not possible, GZA monitored clean travel pathways that were used to prevent contact with potentially contaminated material, in lieu of equipment decontamination at wheel washes.