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From: Abreu, Tatiana [<mailto:Tatiana.Abreu@ct.gov>]

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 1:10 PM

Subject: Synthetic Turf Playing Field Study

Importance: Low

July 21, 2008

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Thank you for your recent communication supporting the study of synthetic turf playing fields. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), working with Attorney General Blumenthal, recently secured money from an enforcement case that will be used to conduct this work. As soon as this money became available at the end of June my staff initiated efforts to work cooperatively with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) to begin a study.

A team of staff from these agencies is currently defining a scope of work to further the study efforts already underway in other jurisdictions assessing the risks associated with these playing fields. This study will be designed to generate data that will complement the body of existing information to give public health officials and other decision makers the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding the risks associated with synthetic turf playing fields. As envisioned, these studies will collect field data related to potential exposures to both players and the environment. Once the scope of study is finalized we will select a qualified independent party that will conduct sampling and analysis to help quantify and qualify potential health and environmental impacts associated with these fields.

It is expected that the scope of work will be finalized and testing initiated this fall. In order to assure that various exposure scenarios are evaluated the testing will likely carry through into next summer with a report due shortly thereafter. Working with the state agency team and others the compiled data will be evaluated and made publically available to assist state and local decision maker weigh the risks and determine the need for any specific controls or limitations on these fields.

The Department of Environmental Protection realizes that many anxiously await further information to inform upcoming decisions and we will work diligently with our sister agencies to generate this information. In the meantime, decision makers and concerned citizens can turn to the growing body of existing data. New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released a comprehensive review of the literature in May 2008 entitled *A Review of the Potential Health and Safety Risks From Synthetic Turf Fields Containing Crumb Rubber Infill*, (Hyperlinked [here](#) or found at nyc.gov). Also see CT DPH's [factsheet](#), *Artificial Turf Fields: Health Questions*. Thank you for your patience. We will keep everyone informed as this work progresses.

Thank you.