

THE SUN CHRONICLE

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Shpack to cost TI \$15M

Company agrees to pay share of \$70M cleanup bill

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Texas Instruments has agreed to reimburse the federal government \$15 million as part of a consent decree covering costs of removing radioactive contamination from the former Shpack landfill on the Norton-Attleboro line.

According to the agreement, the Dallas-based company will pay the Army Corps of Engineers within 15 days. Texas Instruments did not acknowledge any liability as part of the settlement.

At least \$70 million has been spent on the years-long cleanup, according to papers filed in connection with the lawsuit. Texas Instruments could not be reached

Tuesday for a statement regarding the settlement. The consent decree was filed Nov. 8 in U.S. District Court in Boston.

Texas Instruments, which merged with Metals and Controls in 1959, worked with radioactive materials at its Attleboro plant from 1959 to 1981, according to the complaint filed by the Justice Department.

The suit claimed that the company arranged for disposal of radioactive Uranium-234, -235 and -238 at the Shpack site stemming from nuclear fuel operations at the Attleboro plant, in part from contracts with the former U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and other, commercial,

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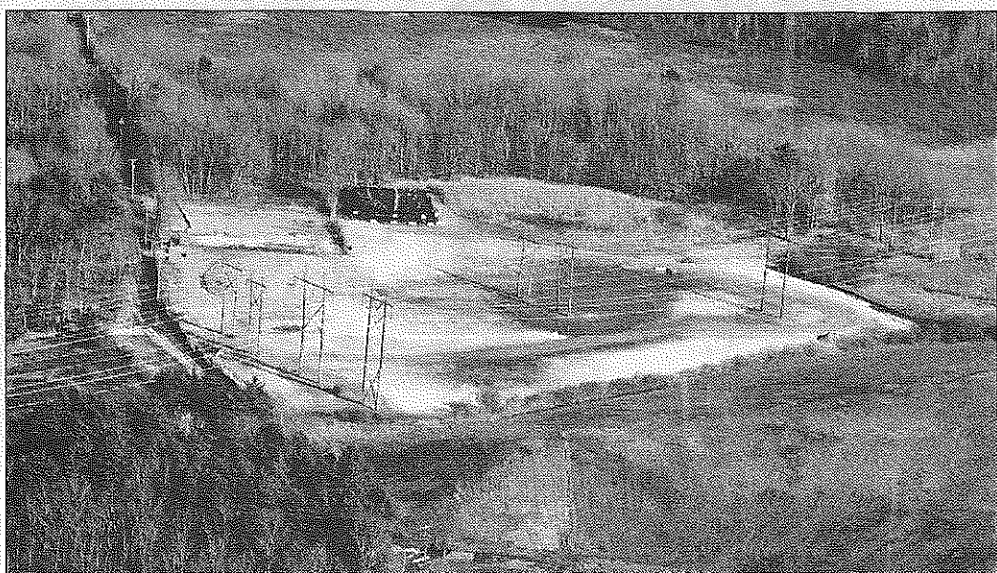
A time to celebrate



Foxboro native to head staff for District

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Shpack_Landfill_08.08_0146_a

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TOM MAGUIRE / THE SUN CHRONICLE

The Attleboro Landfill, right, and the Shpack Landfill Superfund site in the center. Peckham Street and Union Road at the Attleboro-Norton line are on the left of this aerial photo shot earlier this month.

TI: Company to pay \$15 million

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entities. Radium-226 used in making items such as thermostats and circuit breakers also was found, according to the document.

The Schpack landfill, which was used by businesses as well as residents, was found by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the 1970s to be contaminated with radiation, according to the Justice Department complaint.

Court documents also said a survey found electrical components, a sign identified as coming from Texas Instruments and ashes from uranium-containing zirconium chips

dumped by the company.

In 2009, according to the complaint, Texas Instruments and 10 other potentially responsible parties signed a consent decree to address chemical contamination at the site.

The Army Corps of Engineers spent several years removing radioactive materials from the site.

It began the operation in 2005 and completed digging in July 2011.

The excavation included more than 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil, and more than 35,000 cubic yards of radioactive soil was shipped to a storage site in Clive, Utah.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now undertaking removal of chemical contaminants from the site. Well inspection and surveys of the parcel are expected to begin next month.

Excavation of the chemical contaminants are expected to begin in the spring, and could be completed in 2014.

The 9.4-acre Shpack site straddles the Norton-Attleboro line, with six acres in Norton and 3.4 acres in Attleboro.

The Norton side of the site operated as a landfill from 1946 to 1975. The Attleboro side operated from 1946 to 1965.

RYAN: Foxboro native gets post

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and 2008, before taking leave to work as the Massachusetts political director for Obama for America during the 2008 presidential campaign.

and online initiatives. Patrick tapped Ryan to lead the transition in leadership at the MBTA in 2009.

Ryan worked with an independent team, led by David D'Alessandro, to

tion Secretary Rich Davy as MBTA general manager.

In 2010, Ryan worked as the deputy campaign manager for Patrick's re-election campaign before becoming director of com-

SALES: Area lags second month

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in September, compared with the same month in 2011. Ed Pariseau Jr. of Ed Pariseau Real Estate in North Attleboro said he sees no sign of a decline in the market, and that a decline in home sales could be a result of fewer homebuyers in the market after a large number of sales earlier in the year.

"We're seeing all positives," Pariseau said. "The inventory of available houses has declined."

He said sales for his agency have actually increased substantially.

Thea Doherty of Kensington Real Estate in North Attleboro said the figures could be "just a blip" and that some potential buyers might be waiting for a better market.

"Some people see spring as the only time to buy a house," she said.

Overall sales of single-family homes in the area totaled 118 last month, down from 135 in October 2011.

The numbers represent sales in Attleboro, Mansfield, Norfolk, North Attleboro, North Attleboro, Rehoboth, Seekonk and Wrentham.

Year-to-date sales statistics across the area remained strong, however.

A total of 1,163 homes were sold during the first 10 months of 2012, compared with 1,064 during the same period in 2011. That's an increase of 9 percent.

Sales of Massachusetts single-family homes were up 21 percent in October, according to the latest report by the National Association of Realtors. The group, publisher of Banker & Tradesman, said 4,044 single-family homes sold last month in Massachusetts, compared with 3,340 in October 2011.

Year-to-date sales are up almost 22 percent in October, compared with 32,428 during the same period a year ago.

"Home sales for the first 10 months of 2012 already surpassed sales in all of 2011," Wrentham CEO Timothy M. Warren Jr. said. "Recovery, lower mortgage rates, an improved economy and greater consumer confidence are boosting the housing market in Massachusetts and around the country."

The median price of single-family homes was unchanged at \$270,000 in October.

In October, condominium sales statewide were up 10 percent, increasing to 1,607 from 1,080 in October 2011. Year-to-date condo sales are up 29 percent in October, compared with 12,559 during the same period last year.

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