



# THE SUN CHRONICLE

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**WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2009** Last modified: Friday, May 15, 2009 3:02 AM EDT

## Shpack work to get \$5M boost

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The Shpack landfill cleanup received a \$5 million infusion of economic stimulus funds Thursday.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money will fully fund the completion of the Remedial Action Contract for the landfill on the Norton-Attleboro line, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says.

The state Department of Environmental Protection said the Army Corps will use the funds for ongoing soil excavation of radiological waste, which is expected to conclude in September 2010.

The Army Corps is doing this work for the U.S. Department of Energy.

"The cleanup at Shpack has been shovel-ready for some time," DEP Commissioner Laurie Burt said in a news release.

"While there remains a lot of work still to be done at this site by the other parties, the news of federal assistance is a critical and welcome stimulus to the cleanup of this site, which has been on the Superfund National Priorities List since 1986," she said.

The radioactive waste is believed to have come from Metals and Controls, now known as Texas Instruments, and from the local jewelry industry, the DEP said.

Industrial and domestic waste was dumped at the site from 1946 to 1965, the agency said.

Norton Town Manager James Purcell told selectmen that the stimulus money "assures us of continuing with the mitigation process" for another year.

The Army Corps began its cleanup of the 9.4-acre site, consisting of 7 acres in Norton and about 2 acres in Attleboro, in September 2005.

However, the Shpack cleanup was shut down for a year, from June 2006 to June 2007. Purcell said that's because the Army Corps of Engineers had run out of funding due to the end of the federal fiscal year, which runs from October through September.

"We're really pleased about this," Purcell said.

This winter, Attleboro and Norton signed on to a 14-party agreement to fund the second phase of cleanup of non-radiological chemical waste and other contaminants.

Under the settlement, Attleboro will be responsible for about \$2 million of the cost spread out over 30 years. The payments would start in fiscal year 2010, and continue until 2041.

The non-radiological cleanup is expected to happen over the next three years, the DEP said.

The DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have joint oversight over both cleanups.



*A worker drags a bucket of sampled water to be tested at Shpack when cleanup at the contaminated site resumed in July of 2007. (File photo by Martin Gavin)*

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