

Dump clean-up forces Massachusetts course to close

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Part of the city's popular 18-hole golf course will likely be closed to golfers until the year 2000, due to the \$12 million clean-up of toxic materials at a former dump, called Sullivan's Ledge, across the road.

The clean-up project — to be paid for by 14 companies found responsible for polluting the site

from the 1930s to the 1970s — is expected to last about three years.

Many local golfers are frustrated with the idea of the golf course being shut down, off and on, for the next three summers. But state environmental officials and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said contaminants like PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and volatile organic compounds like paint thinners or household cleaners pose serious dangers to local wildlife.

Problems could magnify as the pollution moves up the food chain, they said. While there is no direct risk to humans, PCBs are known to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

David Lederer, a project manager for the EPA, said PCB levels were as high as 200 parts per million in a marsh on the golf course. The target is to reduce that number to 10 parts per million.

The cleanup will be carried out in two phases at two sites — a seven-acre middle marsh area of the course and a 12-acre quarry area across the road. Plans include excavating about

22,000 cubic yards of sediment in the middle marsh and allowing it to dry while treating the marsh water in a new ground-water treatment facility to be built at the site.

The dried sediment would be trucked from the golf course across the street and dumped at the quarry site which will eventually be capped with an impermeable liner spanning about 12 acres and covered with topsoil.



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Palmer Mgt. to upgrade first Conn. property

STRATFORD, Conn. — The Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co. plans \$1.1 million in golf course and facility improvements at private Oronoque Country Club over the next two years.

Palmer's firm recently closed a \$4.5 million deal to buy the Oronoque Country Club — the first holding in New England for the Orlando, Fla.-based operations company.

The planned renovations and improvements include rebuilding bunkers, improving drainage and tee areas and refurbishing cart paths.

"Fairfield County is a terrific market," Palmer said in a prepared statement following the deal with former owners Vincent Sorrentino of Stratford and Joseph Tartagni of Orange.

The purchase includes the 24-year-old country club, 18-hole course, a restaurant and grill room. Sorrentino and Tartagni owned the club for nearly nine years. The club has 300 members.

Oneidas to build N.Y. golf links

VERONA, N.Y. — The Oneida Indian Nation has bought 55 acres of land next to its Turning Stone Casino and hopes to use it as part of a golf complex that will open in 1998.

Called The Center For Golf, the proposed complex would include an 18-hole golf course, nine-hole par-3 track, teaching complex with covered and uncovered driving range stations, short-game center, large putting green and clubhouse.

The golf center will be located just southeast of the casino between Patrick Road and Route 234. The course, designed by Rick Smith Signature Design, is expected to be ready for play by June 1998.

The 18-hole course is expected to feature a mixture of holes, from wooded to links-style, and several water holes. Construction is scheduled to start this spring.