



FAQ on Fly Ash & St. Elizabeths Campus

- **What is fly ash?**

Fly ash is a coal combustion product that is composed of the particulates (fine particles of burned fuel) that are driven out of coal-fired boilers. Fly ash is used as a material in more than 50% of concrete in the United States.

- **Is the potential fly ash on the St. Elizabeths campus harmful?**

Fly ash may be present on the St. Elizabeths campus as the result of prior uses from several decades ago. The Phase II Environmental Site Assessment dated November 27, 2018, showed that potential fly ash locations at the St Elizabeths campus were well below the surface. If undisturbed, it should not present a hazard as it is highly unlikely that contaminated fly ash would become airborne without demolition/excavation activities, such as building construction or tear down. Everyday activities, such as walking or cutting grass, would not disturb the soil.

- **What's the best way to manage fly ash?**

Guidelines from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) note that fly ash be physically isolated by top soils, vegetation, or organic solids such as mulch, wood chips, sawdust, or straw (see [USEPA 1992b](#)). In this case, the potential fly ash is covered by soil, vegetation, and the current shelter building.

- **What is DGS doing to ensure safety of those who live and work at St. Elizabeths during planned construction at the site?**

Protecting the safety of residents and workers is the top priority of District government. While fly ash is not a current threat, DGS will take extreme caution during the construction of the new shelter and demolition of the existing shelter.

- DGS will follow all statutory safety guidelines to ensure that all construction sites and District-owned properties are safe for residents.
- DGS will develop action plans for: abatement, dust control, rodent control, safety and security, and will ensure implementation of these plans.
- DGS will hire an independent testing (third-party inspector) and monitoring company to oversee and monitor the abatement process and ensure it is done correctly and in accordance with DDOE's rules and regulations. The selected Design-Builder and environmental consultant will quantify the contaminated soil utilizing field exploration and laboratory analyses.
- A site-specific abatement work plan and job hazard analysis will be developed for safe removal of any contaminated soils in conjunction with a project safety plan.
- Air monitoring will be conducted throughout the abatement process.

If you have additional questions, please contact Marcus Brummer at mbrummer@jdc-mgmt.com or 202-463-1953 x106.