

# Tainted soil delays Main St. project

Stouffville's \$10.6-million, four-year Main Street reconstruction project has been delayed until mid-August.

What was originally a project set to begin in July, has been delayed due to an assessment of soil conditions that exceeds ministry standards.

Soil sampling between Stouffer Street and Tenth Line revealed levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that exceed the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's soil, groundwater and sediment standards.

PAHs are generally found in coal or tar deposits, but they're produced as a byproduct of incomplete combustion from engines, incinerators and the burning of biomass.

Exposure to PAHs has been linked to cancer, cardiovascular disease and poor fetal development. The affected soil is located below the

asphalt road surface and does not pose any threat to public health, the town says.

"Our first concern is always for the safety and well-being of our residents and workers," public works director Rob Flindall said.

"The town will ensure that the materials removed from the construction site are properly handled, including keeping dust to a minimum."

The first phase of construction involved replacing the watermain, sanitary sewer, curbs and road surface between Stouffer and Tenth.

An additional contingency of \$650,000 has been added to the current contingency of \$318,221. Fees will cover consulting and inspection fees for the site, handling and disposal of soil and contractor delays.

- Ali Raza

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