

Riverview Hospital Expansion

PUB-RR-886

February 2011

Riverview Hospital Expansion

410 Dewey Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Wood County

1 acre

Location: The hospital is situated in a commercial district of Wisconsin Rapids, within one block of the Wisconsin River.

A planned expansion at a central Wisconsin hospital is completed, even after crews run into an unexpected landfill.

History

Riverview Hospital has been providing patient care in Wisconsin Rapids since it first opened in 1912. The hospital association purchased the property for the current facility in 1942, and completed the building in 1967.

Crews began work on a hospital expansion project in 2007 to address the needs of more patients.

Investigation and Cleanup

The Riverview Hospital expansion plan called for the new addition to be sited on what was then a portion of the parking lot. Environmental sampling of the site revealed an unexpected problem: fill and waste materials were discovered at depths of four to 14 feet.

The sampling showed that the property had been used as a dump site in the 1940s and 50s.

Fill material was primarily composed of glass, wood, metal, foundry sand and tar. Considerable ash suggested that the waste had been burned, and the historic fill site investigation showed no hazardous materials present. Likewise, there was no methane or other volatile gasses detected on the site.

Soil testing revealed arsenic and lead, with the groundwater testing positive for lead. The investigation determined that the subsurface soils posed no threat to public health based on use of the property as a parking lot. However, the fill material was not suitable for building, since removing the lot to build the addition would expose the old fill material and could release vapors and gases into the environment.

To allow the expansion to continue, 17,000 cubic yards of waste material was properly removed and replaced with clean fill.



The need to expand their services led Riverview Hospital to convert a portion of their parking lot into a new hospital wing (photo courtesy DNR).



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>



Redevelopment

With the historic landfill waste removed, construction could begin on Riverview Hospital's 117,000 square-foot expansion. Cost for the project was reported as \$25 million. The two-story addition includes 57 private inpatient rooms. Additional room was left for future expansion needs.

Financial, Liability, Technical Assistance

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program provided liability assistance on this project. Once it was confirmed that the historic waste would be removed, the RR program issued the hospital association an exemption to build on an abandoned landfill.

Contacts

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The new Riverview Hospital wing includes 57 inpatient rooms (photo courtesy DNR).



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