

EPA Begins Asbestos Cleanup at the Former Deferiet Paper Mill

**Village of Deferiet,
Jefferson County, New York**

Community Update No. 3

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**If you have any questions or
would like additional
information, please contact:**

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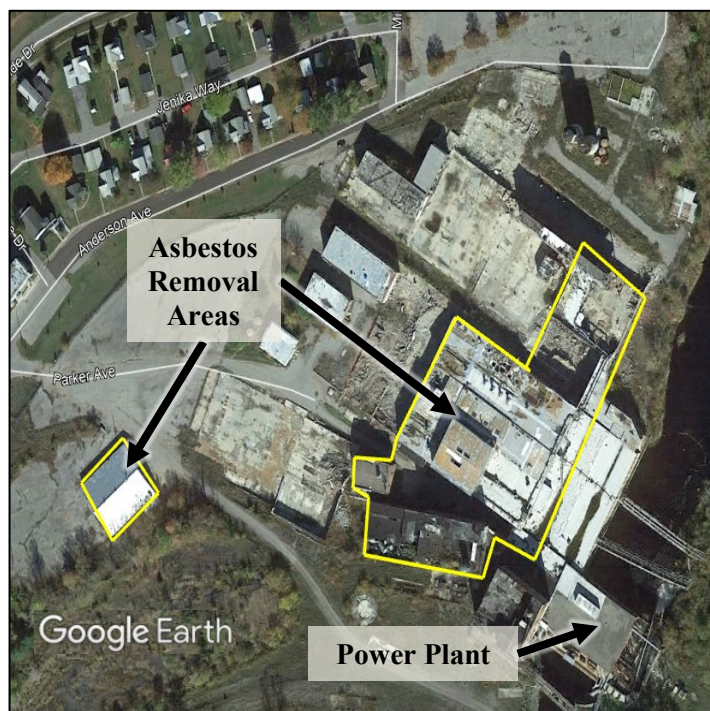
For more information about the site:
https://response.epa.gov/DeferietPaperMill_RV4

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin removing asbestos from the former Deferiet Paper Mill site, located in the Village of Deferiet, NY this spring. The work may take up to six months to complete. The map below shows the areas targeted for the asbestos abatement, which will include removing or encasing asbestos from the pathway used by employees at the hydroelectric power plant. This work will significantly reduce the public health threats from direct contact with asbestos; however, due to accessibility limitations and safety concerns in some areas, EPA will be unable to remove all asbestos from the dilapidated buildings at the site. Access will be restricted and marked with warning signs in areas that EPA cannot address through this action. EPA will contain the asbestos within the work zones and will monitor and sample the air to protect workers and employees at the power plant and the public.

PAST ACTIVITIES

At the request of Jefferson County, EPA stabilized asbestos along the pathway that employees use at the power facility in 2016. EPA also assessed asbestos in all of the buildings at the site in 2017. EPA also cleaned up numerous tanks and drums containing hazardous substances that were discovered during the assessment. In addition, EPA re-stabilized exposed asbestos along the pathway in the fall of 2018. The facility's perimeter, including incomplete fencing, was re-secured to reduce trespassing on the property in 2020. The agency continues to coordinate with the Deferiet mayor's office, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Labor.



BACKGROUND

The facility is located at 400 Anderson Avenue, Deferiet, New York and encompasses 48 acres with a series of buildings that housed the former paper mill and hydroelectric power plant. The original mill manufactured paper of varying types, including newsprint and glossy magazine paper. The hydroelectric power plant was built by the mill to generate steam which supplied electrical power for the machinery as well as the facilities. The paper mill has been abandoned since the mid-2000s and, except for the power plant, it is in a severe state of disrepair.

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos are fibrous minerals that can have the ability to resist heat, fire, electricity, and corrosion. The mineral fibers are found in rock and soil. Friable asbestos which is the type of asbestos that will be removed at this site, is more prone to damage and when easily broken, could release inhalable asbestos fibers into the air.

WHERE CAN I FIND ASBESTOS?

Because of its fiber strength and heat resistance, asbestos has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant. Asbestos has also been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, mostly in building materials. Asbestos has been mined and used in many products. Although mining in the U.S. has ended, asbestos is still present in older homes and buildings, and some products still contain it.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Exposure to asbestos increases your risk of developing pulmonary disease. For more information about asbestos exposure, see:

Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asbestos