

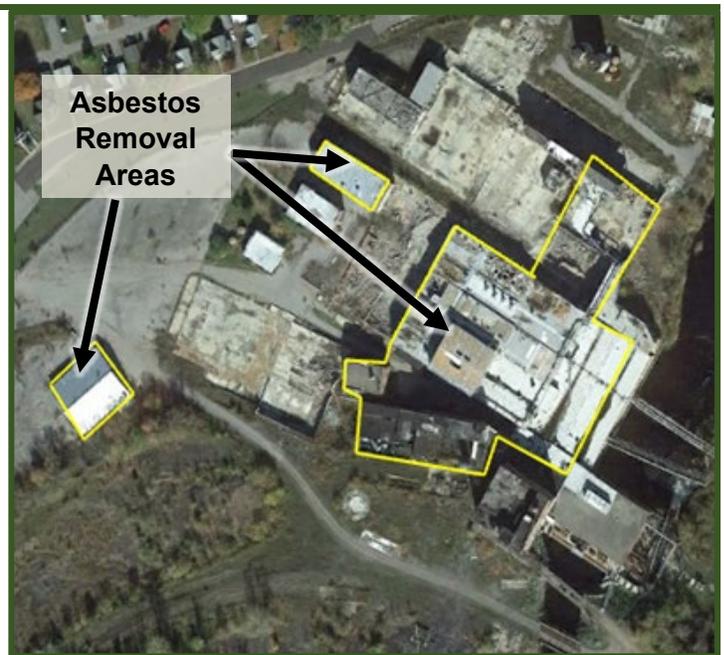


**OCTOBER 2021**

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) removed approximately 65 tons of easily crumbled or “friable” asbestos-contaminated waste from the former Deferiet Paper Mill site in Deferiet, New York. Friable asbestos can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure.

EPA shipped the waste off-site to a regulated landfill for disposal. Removing the asbestos-contaminated waste significantly reduced the public health threats. Due to accessibility limitations and safety concerns in some areas, EPA was unable to remove all friable asbestos from the buildings at the site but has restricted access to the areas where friable asbestos remains. EPA is not currently planning to conduct further work at the facility.



## PAST ACTIVITIES

At the request of Jefferson County in 2016, EPA encased asbestos found along the pathway that employees use to access a power plant adjacent to the Deferiet Paper Mill site. EPA assessed asbestos in all the buildings at the site in 2017 and cleaned up numerous tanks and drums containing hazardous substances that were discovered during the assessment. EPA re-encased exposed asbestos along the pathway in 2018 and in 2020, and re-secured the facility’s perimeter, including replacing and repairing incomplete fencing to reduce trespassing on the property which could have resulted in exposures to asbestos.

## BACKGROUND

The former Deferiet Paper Mill 48-acre site, located at 400 Anderson Avenue, Deferiet, New York, includes a series of buildings that housed the former paper mill and hydroelectric power plant. The original mill manufactured paper, including newsprint and glossy magazine paper. The mill built the hydroelectric power plant to generate steam which supplied electrical power for the machinery and the facilities. The paper mill has been abandoned since the mid-2000s and except for the power plant, is in a severe state of disrepair.



## Asbestos

Asbestos are fibrous minerals, found in rock and soil, that can resist heat, fire, electricity, and corrosion. Friable asbestos is more prone to damage and when easily broken, could release inhalable asbestos fibers into the air.

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.

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

Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asbestos](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asbestos)

## EPA Contact Information

**Michael Basile**

Community Involvement Coordinator

(646) 369-0055

[basile.michael@epa.gov](mailto:basile.michael@epa.gov)

**Joel Petty**

On Scene Coordinator

(732) 321-4388

[petty.joel@epa.gov](mailto:petty.joel@epa.gov)



[response.epa.gov/DeferietPaperMill](http://response.epa.gov/DeferietPaperMill)



<https://www.facebook.com/eparegion2/>



[https://twitter.com/EPA\\_region2](https://twitter.com/EPA_region2)