



REMOVAL

JB Paper Company Superfund Site

Pittsfield in Berkshire County, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



SITE DESCRIPTION

The J.B. Paper Company Site is located at 70 Elmvale Place in Pittsfield, MA. In 1967, JB Paper Company purchased this property and operated as a wholesale distributor of paper products, sundries, cleaning supplies, toys, toiletries, etc. until 2009. From 2009 to 2016, the building was vacant. On the night of August 29, 2016, a three-alarm fire broke out at the abandoned mill building. Shortly after the fire, all remaining walls were taken down and a fence was put up around the site to prevent public access. A few months after the fire, the city hired an environmental consultant to conduct an assessment of the property. The assessment determined that suspect asbestos containing materials were present in the debris piles located on the site. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) confirmed the presence of asbestos containing material during an investigation. On December 23, 2021, MassDEP requested EPA assistance to address the contamination.

SITE STATUS AND WHAT TO EXPECT

In March 2022 and June 2022, EPA conducted site investigations to determine the extent of contamination. During these investigations, soil and debris samples were collected from multiple locations within the debris pile and in areas outside the debris pile. Several bulk asbestos samples were collected from within the debris pile. Sampling results indicate the presence of lead and arsenic in the soil/debris within the debris pile. Asbestos containing material is also present within the debris pile.

In mid- to late October 2022, EPA will begin removal activities. The removal process will take about eight weeks and normal working hours will be between 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. During this time, contaminated areas within the debris pile will be segregated and removed from the site. Disposal of the contaminated materials will take place at an off-site licensed facility. Community members should expect to see workers wearing white Tyvek suits and other protective equipment due to their direct contact with potentially contaminated materials. Heavy equipment will also be operating on-site. During the entire removal action, EPA will continue to work with the City of Pittsfield and MassDEP.

KEY CONTACTS:

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