



**SEPTEMBER 2023**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its cleanup of mercury contamination at the Vo-Toys site in Harrison, New Jersey. On September 8, 2023, EPA and General Electric Company's (GE) contractors removed all their equipment from the site, marking the end of EPA's cleanup actions.

## Cleanup Activities



*Demolition of Building B*

At the request of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) EPA supervised the successful decontamination and demolition of the three mercury-contaminated buildings that once stood at 400 South Fifth Street.

The safe deconstruction of the buildings took place between March 2020 and July 2022. Under EPA oversight, GE contractors removed all the mercury and asbestos-containing materials before demolishing the buildings. During the mercury removal and building demolition, EPA and GE contractors monitored the air continuously for mercury vapors and dust. Based on the data collected, the levels of mercury vapor in the air did not exceed EPA's safety limits outside the site perimeter.

Once that work was completed in July 2022, GE removed and disposed of additional mercury found in the soil underneath where the buildings stood, in the concrete column footers, and from piping throughout the site.

EPA has completed its work and the NJDEP will oversee any future cleanup work needed to prepare the site for redevelopment.



Mercury is a naturally occurring element that can be hazardous to people's health and the environment. Elemental mercury is a silver liquid at room temperature that can also evaporate into the air as a gas or become a solid at very low temperatures. It is primarily used in the manufacture of electronics, fluorescent-lighting, and production of chlorine-caustic soda.

At the Vo-Toys site, mercury was used primarily in industrial pumps used for the manufacture of light bulbs and radio tubes.

For more information on mercury, visit

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts46.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts46.pdf)

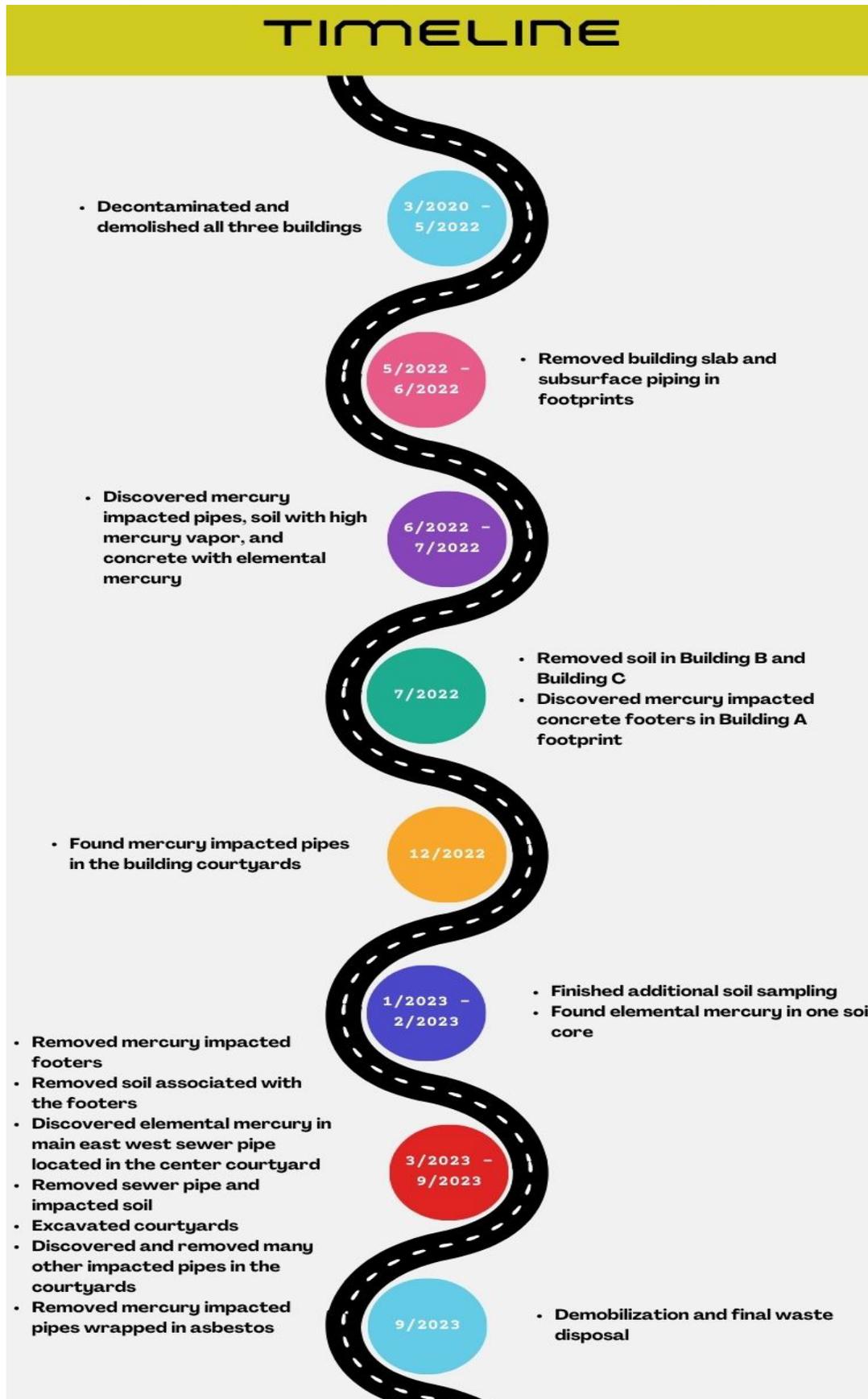


*Elemental mercury beads*

## Site Background

The Vo-Toys site is a former manufacturing facility that occupies a city block in Harrison, New Jersey in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood just north of Route 280. Three large, buildings contaminated with mercury from past industrial practices and not in use since 2015, sat on the site until they were demolished between 2020 and 2022.

Historically, the Vo-Toys buildings were used by the Edison Lamp Company and the Edison General Electric Company to manufacture incandescent lightbulbs from approximately 1902 to 1929. The facility was then operated by Radio Corporation of America (RCA) until 1976. From 1977 to 2015, Vo-Toys, Inc. stored toy products in the facility. In 2015, a developer, BRG Harrison Lofts Urban Renewal, LLC (BRG), bought the site and had plans to redevelop the buildings into condominiums when the mercury was discovered and delayed the redevelopment.





**EPA COMPLETES MERCURY CLEANUP AT  
THE VO-TOYS SITE, 400 SOUTH 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HARRISON, NEW JERSEY**



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