



# Walton & Lonsbury Site

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.*



### BACKGROUND:

The Site at 78 North Avenue in Attleboro, MA houses a 13,500 square foot chrome plating facility formerly operated by Walton & Lonsbury, Inc (W&L). While in operation from 1940-2007, the Site was used to chrome-plate oversized objects such as pistons for large hydraulic equipment or rollers for paper mills. For a time, copper plating operations also took place until the building was remodeled in the 1950s. A number of chemicals and chemical compounds were used and left as waste in the operations process. From 1940-1970, all wastes generated from the facility discharged into the wetlands located on the southern portion of the property via an underground pipe. After 1970, W&L used a number of different waste disposal techniques that also had environmental consequences on the Site.

### CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN:

Contaminants of Concern on this Site include total chromium, hexavalent chromium, lead and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The chromium compounds resulted from the use of chromic acid to perform chrome plating in the plant. Lead is a contaminant of concern because it was used for a variety of operations in the plant including the making of plumbing pieces for the plating process.

### REMOVAL ACTIONS:

When W&L abandoned the facility in 2007, they left everything behind. The first step in the clean-up is to empty the facility, and then demolish it. Other removal operations include: dismantling and removing the eight plating tanks on the property; excavating the foundation and contaminated soils on Site; clearing the wooded, wetland south of the Site; removing and/or treating contaminated soils and restoring all impacted properties.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

EPA and its contractors will be working behind fencing constructed specifically for the project. This fencing will enclose the parking lot of the Walton & Lonsbury Site, which means this lot will be unavailable as excess parking

for Hayward Park. Residents and park users should continue in their daily activities because EPA will be monitoring the air quality on and around the Site. Work will be halted if EPA detects contamination in the air. EPA will also conduct soil sampling during removal actions to confirm the removal of contaminants.

Residents near the Site, and users of Hayward Park should expect to see an increase of truck traffic in the area. Because adjacent properties to the Site are operational industrial properties, truck traffic is not uncommon in this area. Work operations will be conducted between 7am-7pm Monday-Saturday.

Workers will be wearing protective equipment when on Site; this is meant to protect them from any contaminants they may be handling while working.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT:

Jeffrey Chormann, *Mass Department of Environmental Protection; Chief of the Assessment and Reporting Branch, Bureau of Waste Prevention*; (617) 292-5888; jeffrey.chormann@state.ma.us

**Informational Public Meeting:** Attleboro City Hall on Monday, October 18 at 7pm.

### KEY CONTACTS:

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### GENERAL INFO:

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