



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 chromium plating facility formerly operated by Walton & Lonsbury, Inc. (W&L). While in operation from 1940-2007, the Site was used to chrome-plate very large 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 the 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.

WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED:

EPA is three months into the removal process at the W&L Site. During this time, a permanent fence has been constructed around the property and the asbestos has been removed from the building. Currently, the W&L facility is being emptied in preparation for building demolition.

EPA crews have also been busy collecting and analyzing additional samples around the Site and in nearby, impacted residential areas to further define the extent of contamination. When the residential data results were finalized in mid-December, they were immediately released to the residents by the EPA, the MA Department of Environmental Protection and the MA Department of Public Health. The sampling behind W&L was completed

on December 18, 2010 and these data will be released to public record once validated.

WHAT'S NEXT:

On January 11, 2011, EPA will begin the demolition of the W&L Building. The building will be excavated with claw-like equipment in order to take it down in pieces. This process will take one to two months, weather pending. During this time EPA will only be excavating the building above the foundation level. The foundation and the soil beneath will be removed later in the project process. During the excavation, EPA will have equipment monitoring the air quality around the Site to ensure that no hazardous materials are accidentally released from the Site during demolition. Real-time dust monitors will measure for any dust coming from the site. If the amount of dust is found to exceed appropriate limits, all work will be halted until these issues are addressed.

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