



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

FACT SHEET

A.K. Stewart Science Center at Knoxville College Knoxville, Tennessee

No. 2

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This Site information update summarizes the response, ongoing activities, and next steps.

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Additional Information

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Site Background

The A.K. Stewart Science Building in Knoxville College (KC) is an unused laboratory facility located at 901 Knoxville College Drive Knoxville, TN. The facility is directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods. The facility has shown signs of trespassing and scrapping. Multiple windows are broken and the exterior doors are unsecured. Knoxville College has employed security to secure the campus.

On June 5, 2014 the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) performed an inspection of the facility and found multiple leaking and damaged containers of hazardous substances and hazardous wastes throughout the three story facility. TDEC also observed many instances of incompatible and improper storage. After the inspection TDEC requested assistance from the U.S. EPA Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch in performing a full assessment of the abandoned laboratory facility on the Knoxville College campus. EPA crews entered the building on June 6, 2014 and observed thousands of chemical containers ranging in size from 5-gallons to milliliter volumes. There are 39 rooms and laboratories containing varied amounts of chemical waste.

Current Status/Future Action

EPA established interior and exterior air monitoring and sampling stations. These stations were operating whenever work was occurring. Portable air monitoring and surveying equipment was also deployed throughout the project. Equipment looked for radiation, asbestos, and other hazardous compounds that could have been potentially released. No adverse conditions were observed throughout the project.

All drums and containers of hazardous materials were managed and removed from the building. The chemicals were packed into shipping drums and containers are temporarily stored outside the building in secured steel storage containers. EPA is currently arranging for proper disposal and crews will return to the College in approximately 3-4 weeks to ship the materials for final disposal at an EPA and State approved facility.

A project close out meeting was held, with TDEC, Knox County, City of Knoxville, and the Knoxville College. TDEC and Knox County will work with the Knoxville College to address the damage presumed asbestos containing building materials and remaining environmental concerns in the A.K. Stewart Science Building.

The building was re-secured with sheets of plywood. On June 27, 2014, all EPA personnel and equipment was demobilized from the site.