



# Sessions Clock Site Bristol, CT

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

From 1903 to 1959, the Sessions Clock Company located at 164 Central Street in Bristol, CT was a manufacturer of clocks and clock components. During this period, radio-luminescent paint containing Radium-226 was used during the manufacturing process to make clock faces and dials glow. While clock manufacturing under different companies at the Site predates the existence of the Sessions Clock Company (clock manufacturing at the Site began in 1830), the use of radio luminescent paint did not. In 1959, Bristol Instrument Gears Inc. purchased the Site from Sessions Clock Company and began operating as a manufacturer of precision gears and components. Bristol Instrument Gears Inc. is still an active business.

### EPA'S INVOLVEMENT

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) referred the Site to EPA due to: (i) the presence of radionuclide Radium-226 (Ra-226) soil contamination; (ii) the potential hazards at the Site that could pose a risk to human health, sensitive ecosystems, or the drinking water supply and (iii) weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances to be released or migrate. EPA has begun its evaluation of the Site by collecting samples to better comprehend the nature and extent of contamination. EPA will determine if any additional immediate response actions need to be conducted to address any

imminent hazards that are identified by sample collection efforts.

EPA's goals for community involvement are: (i) to provide the public with accurate, timely, accessible, and understandable information about the project as it moves forward; (ii) to provide opportunities for the public to become actively involved, especially when decisions about the cleanup are being made; (iii) to enlist the support and involvement of local officials and community leaders; and (iv) to encourage, respect and fully consider community input as the project moves forward.

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### KEY CONTACTS:

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### GENERAL INFO:

#### TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-EPA-7341

#### LEARN MORE AT:

<https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleaning-new-england>



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment. [epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)

## NEXT STEPS

In October, EPA's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) is expected to begin a Removal Action and cleanup project along the bank of the Pequabuck River adjacent to the Bristol Instrument Gears property which will remove hazardous substances present in soil to reduce the risk to human health and the environment.

The short-term work that will be conducted during the Removal Action includes: clearing of vegetation and debris, soil sampling, removal of contaminated soil, staging and mixing soils on-site in

preparation for transportation and disposal (T&D); air monitoring; post-removal confirmation sampling as necessary; backfilling and regrading areas where soil was removed; and off-site shipment of waste to EPA approved facility.

EPA will generally work during daylight hours. The Removal Action is expected to take 2 to 3 months. Throughout the work day, EPA will be monitoring air at the Site for the safety of site workers and the surrounding community. One may expect to see heavy equipment, workers in

white suits, and trucks occasionally which may have a slight effect on traffic. Some hazardous materials will be secured on site temporarily while awaiting shipment offsite to an EPA-approved facility.

For more information on the Toxicological Profile for Radium, please visit the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Public Health Statement link at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp144-c1-b.pdf>

### PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

- There is no immediate danger to the public from potential exposure to toxic substances based on the location of the site and the proximity of the community.
- Proposed actions will remove contaminants from accessible areas of the Site to minimize overall environmental impacts while maximizing the environmental and human benefit.
- As a safety precaution, a temporary chain link fence around the excavation area and stockpile will be installed to improve site security. Trespassing is prohibited and residents, including children and pets are advised to keep out of the area to avoid public safety hazards, as this is an active cleanup and construction location.