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# Cleanup of Asbestos to Begin at Former Rock-Tenn Site

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## Rock-Tenn Site

Otsego, Michigan

March 2019

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### Informational meeting

The EPA is holding a meeting to update the community about the cleanup at Rock-Tenn.

The meeting is on **April 2 at 6 p.m.** at the Otsego City Hall, 117 E. Orleans St.

An EPA representative will make a formal presentation and then be available to discuss the cleanup.

If you need special accommodations at the meeting, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Diane Russell.

### Contact the EPA

For more information, or if you have comments about the Rock-Tenn site cleanup, contact:

#### Paul Ruesch

On Scene Coordinator  
[ruesch.paul@epa.gov](mailto:ruesch.paul@epa.gov)  
312-919-4382

#### Diane Russell

Community Involvement Coordinator  
[russell.diane@epa.gov](mailto:russell.diane@epa.gov)  
989-395-3493

### For more information

You can learn more about the cleanup online at:

[response.epa.gov/rocktenn2](https://response.epa.gov/rocktenn2)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responding to a request from Allegan County and the city of Otsego to address asbestos contamination at the former Rock-Tenn paper mill facility on West River Street. The power house building (*see photo below*) contains loose asbestos debris spread throughout the interior (*photo P. 2*).

Asbestos insulation was utilized extensively inside the building around boilers, tanks, hoppers and piping. Past uncontrolled efforts to remove scrap metal, along with deterioration of the building over time, has resulted in the threat of collapse. If the building collapses, it would cause an uncontrolled release of asbestos to the surrounding area.

EPA will have a public meeting (*see box at left*) to explain the cleanup project, which will begin in April and take several months to complete.



*The power house building at the former Rock-Tenn facility.*

## Proposed cleanup

Workers will first secure and cover all windows and doors of the power house building with heavy plastic sheeting. Crews will then remove all loose asbestos from the interior. All areas where asbestos is being removed will be wet down to control dust, and crews will use special protective clothing and facemasks to protect themselves from exposure to asbestos dust.

A structural engineer determined the power house building to be unsafe. It is likely the entire structure will be demolished during the project to safely and effectively remove all the asbestos. All asbestos and building debris will be moved by licensed haulers and disposed of in a landfill licensed to accept asbestos waste and approved by EPA.

Air monitors will be placed around the building during project work to test for asbestos and ensure none is being released off-site. Fences will be put up and signs posted to keep people from being exposed to asbestos during the cleanup. Work crews will access the area from Helen Street and/or West River Street during the project. Once the asbestos is removed, workers will test and monitor the area to ensure that no asbestos remains.



*Loose asbestos is strewn about the inside of the building.*

ROCK-TENN SITE:  
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FIRST  
CLASS

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

**EPA**  
United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region 5 Superfund Division  
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