



# Rock Tenn Power House

## Time Critical Removal Action

April 2, 2019

*Trish Edwards*

*Paul Ruesch*

*Craig Thomas*

# Outline

- Introductions
- Threat
- Approach
- Monitoring
- Overview / schedule
- Questions

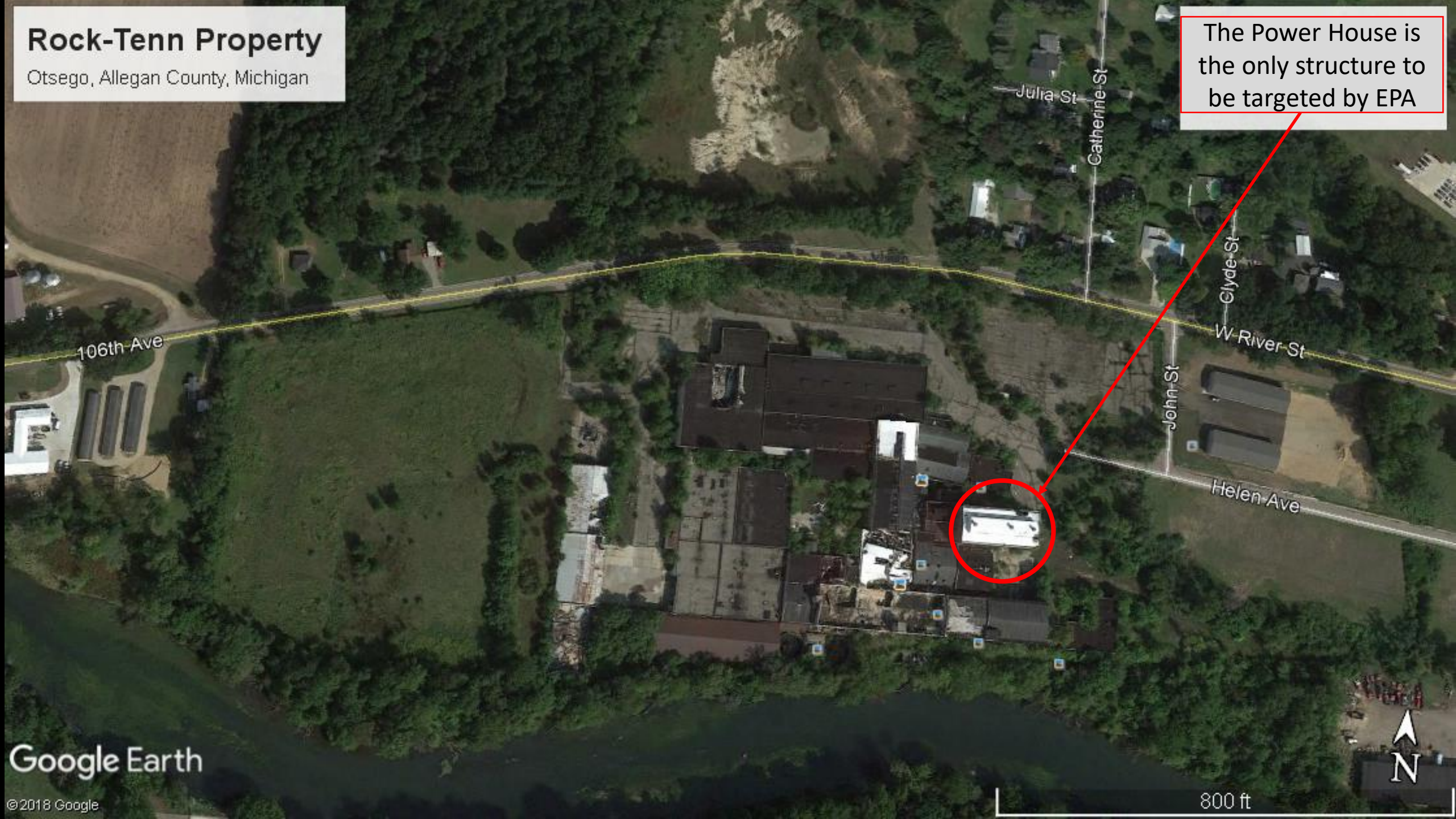
# Planning Team



# Rock-Tenn Property

Otsego, Allegan County, Michigan

The Power House is the only structure to be targeted by EPA



Google Earth

© 2018 Google





There is amosite asbestos everywhere inside the Power House. It was used in insulation (piping, hoppers, bins) and lining for the boilers





It is possible that several adjacent buildings may need to be knocked down if they are de-stablized by the demolition of the Power House

Staging

Power House

Helen Ave Access

Office  
Trailers/Staging

W. River St. Access



**It is likely that a large  
'grapple' will be used  
to demolish the  
building which will  
reduce dust and  
falling debris and  
allow easy load out  
into trucks**

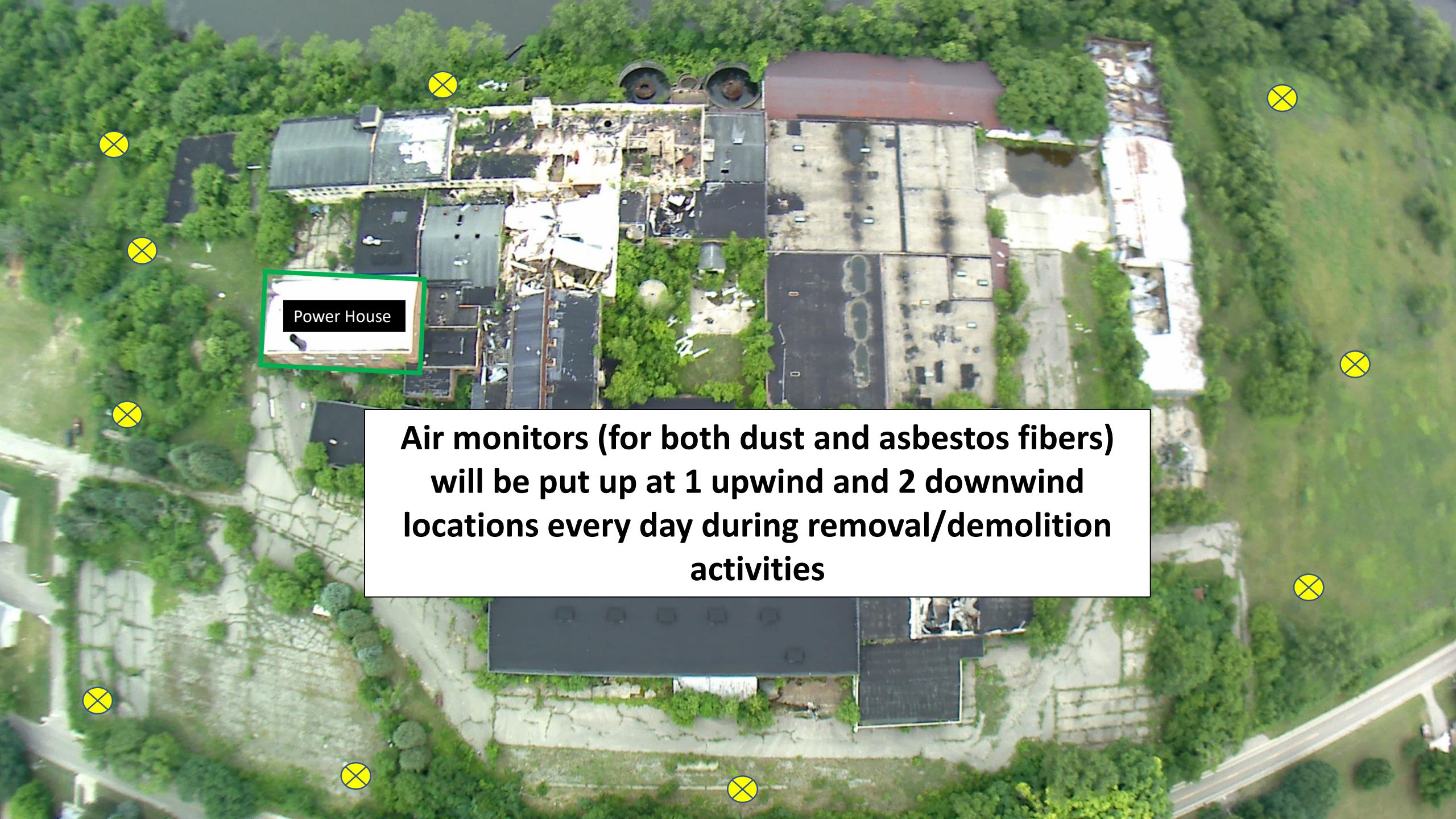


**All asbestos waste and demolition debris will be placed in double-lined (overlapped and sealed at the top) trucks for transport to an EPA-approved landfill**



**Water misters will be used for dust control during building demolition to minimize release of dust and asbestos fibers**



An aerial photograph of a demolition site. A large, multi-story building is being dismantled, with debris visible. To the left of the main structure is a smaller, rectangular building labeled 'Power House'. The site is surrounded by green trees and vegetation. Several yellow circles with a black 'X' are placed around the site, indicating locations for air monitors. A text box in the center provides information about the air monitoring plan.

Power House

**Air monitors (for both dust and asbestos fibers)  
will be put up at 1 upwind and 2 downwind  
locations every day during removal/demolition  
activities**



Both stationary monitors on tripods and hand-held monitors will be used for dust every day during work activities.

Readings display real-time in office. Any exceedances alarm on cell phones.

AirCon  
Sampler  
(perimeter)

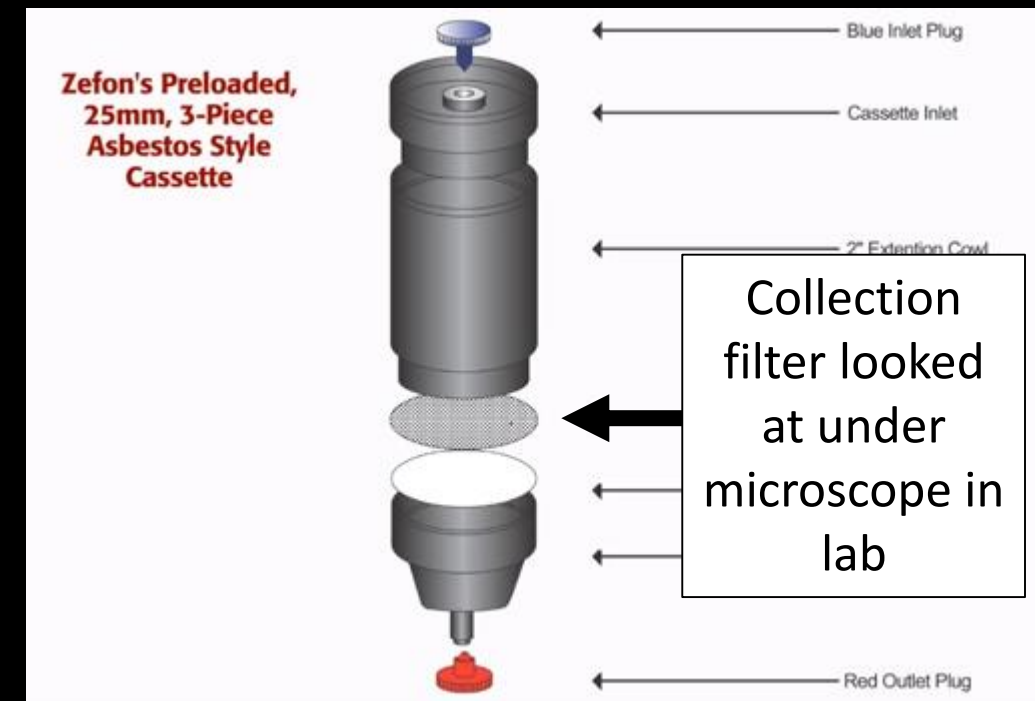


Gilian Pump Sampler  
(personnel)



Filter cassettes  
(changed daily)

Mini air-pump samplers will collect samples to detect asbestos fibers on filters in cartridges which will be sent to a lab to look for asbestos



All site workers will be dressed in 'Level C' personal protective equipment when working around the building

For health & safety reasons, we will not be allowing site visitors or tours during this project



# Overview

- Estimated project cost = \$ 1 m (Superfund)
- Project start = April 1
- Projected time to complete = 3 months
- Work hours = 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Project to be completed in two phases:
  - Phase 1 – Remove all loose asbestos from inside Power House
  - Phase 2 – Demolish and remove Power House

# Overview

- Security cameras are deployed throughout the site
- Site will be watched closely by Otsego PD and Allegan County Sheriff
- Traffic control will be deployed on W. River Street when trucks are entering/exiting
- Please feel free to contact Paul Ruesch at 312-919-4382 to report any suspicious activity / concerns / issues

**PLEASE**


***USE CAUTION ON RIVER STREET***

***PAY ATTENTION TO ROAD SIGNS / FLAGGERS !***

# <https://response.epa.gov/rocktenn2>

If you would like to receive weekly project updates, give Diane Russell your email tonight or email Paul Ruesch at:


[ruesch.paul@epa.gov](mailto:ruesch.paul@epa.gov)




United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Profile | Notices | Images | Documents | Contacts | Links | Login

ROCK-TENN II



OTSEGO, MI - REGION V




KML | RSS | location | area map | bookmark

Site Contact:  
**Paul Ruesch**  
OSC  
[ruesch.paul@epa.gov](mailto:ruesch.paul@epa.gov)  
431 Helen Avenue  
Otsego, MI 49078  
[response.epa.gov/rocktenn2](mailto:response.epa.gov/rocktenn2)  
Latitude: 42.4639454  
Longitude: -85.7045274

RESOURCE 8

Notices  
[Community Meeting - 4/2...](#)  
[List All...](#)

Images  
  
[List All...](#)

Documents  
[Initial Project Fact Sheet Mar...](#)  
[Action Memorandum...](#)  
[City/County Request for EPA As...](#)  
[Access Agreement...](#)  
[List All...](#)

Contacts  
OSC  
[ruesch.paul@epa.gov](mailto:ruesch.paul@epa.gov)  
Federal  
[russell.diane@epa.gov](mailto:russell.diane@epa.gov)  
Local  
[amitchell@cityofotsego.org](mailto:amitchell@cityofotsego.org)  
[List All...](#)

Links  

None for this site

The vacant paper mill property contains a large building contaminated with loose, friable asbestos. In response to a request from the City of Otsego and Allegan County, EPA is conducting a time-critical removal action in the Power House building, which is unstable and in deteriorating condition, to remove asbestos.

This website contains supporting documents, work plans, data and progress reports on the project.

For additional information, visit the [Notices](#) section.

Fact Sheets with  
all project  
contacts / info  
are available at  
the sign in table



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

Rock-Tenn Site  
Otsego, Michigan

March 2019

### 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.*