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# Cleanup of Asbestos Complete at Former Rock-Tenn Site

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## Rock-Tenn Site

Otsego, Michigan

June 2019

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### Informational meeting

The EPA is holding a meeting on to update the community about the completion of an asbestos cleanup at the Rock-Tenn site.

The meeting is on **July 16 at 6 p.m.** at the Otsego City Hall, 117 E. Orleans Street.

City of Otsego, Allegan County, and EPA representatives 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 EPA

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

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#### Diane Russell

Community Involvement Coordinator  
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### For more information

You can learn more about the cleanup online at:  
<https://response.epa.gov/rocktenn2>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently completed a cleanup to address asbestos contamination at the former Rock-Tenn paper mill facility on West River Street in Otsego, Mich. The former power house building, which contained loose asbestos debris, was removed.

Asbestos insulation was used 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, resulted in the threat of collapse. If the building would have collapsed, it would have caused an uncontrolled release of asbestos to the surrounding area.

EPA will have a public meeting (*see box at left*) to explain the outcome of the cleanup project, which began in April and was completed in early June. Representatives from the city of Otsego and Allegan County will also attend to provide an update on next steps relating to the Rock-Tenn property.

### Cleanup project

During the project, crews first removed all loose asbestos from inside the building. All areas where asbestos was being removed were wet down to control dust. Crews used special protective clothing and facemasks to protect themselves from exposure to asbestos dust.

The former power house building was determined to be unsafe by a structural engineer. The structure was removed during the project to safely and effectively remove all the asbestos. All asbestos and building debris were hauled off by licensed haulers and disposed of in landfills licensed and approved by EPA.

Air monitors were placed around the building during project work to test for asbestos and ensure none was released offsite (*see left photo back page*). Fences were put up and signs posted to keep people from being exposed to asbestos during the cleanup. Once the asbestos was removed, workers tested the surrounding area to ensure no asbestos remains.

The building foundation and basement were not removed during the project and will be addressed in future demolition of the rest of the structures on the property. The area surrounding the former power house was fenced off with warning signs to prevent access (*see right photo back page*).



*Air monitors were set out around the building to monitor for dust and asbestos fibers.*



*Fencing and warning signage were placed around the building foundation.*

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