



NAVAJO FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES (NFPI) CLEANUP ACTION

USEPA Cleans Up Asbestos at Former NFPI Property

Working with the Red Lake Chapter House and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) cleaned up the former NFPI property. Cleanup work included removing asbestos and demolishing the former kiln building. This work protects community members from exposure to asbestos on the property.

NFPI Property Information

The former NFPI property had a large, damaged concrete kiln building. Workers used this building to dry processed lumber (Figure 1). Asbestos—which is hazardous to human health—was found in the building and on top of nearby soils. The Red Lake Chapter House, a charter school, a propane distribution business and residences are located near the property.



Figure 1: Before and after views of the kiln building that was demolished

Asbestos Cleanup Action Completed

USEPA started field work for the cleanup on July 5, 2021. Before construction began, USEPA put air monitoring units inside and outside the work areas to monitor cleanup activities (see Figure 2). This ensured asbestos did not spread off the site. If a monitor detects dust with asbestos above the action level, work was stopped. Throughout the cleanup, dust was never found above the action level.

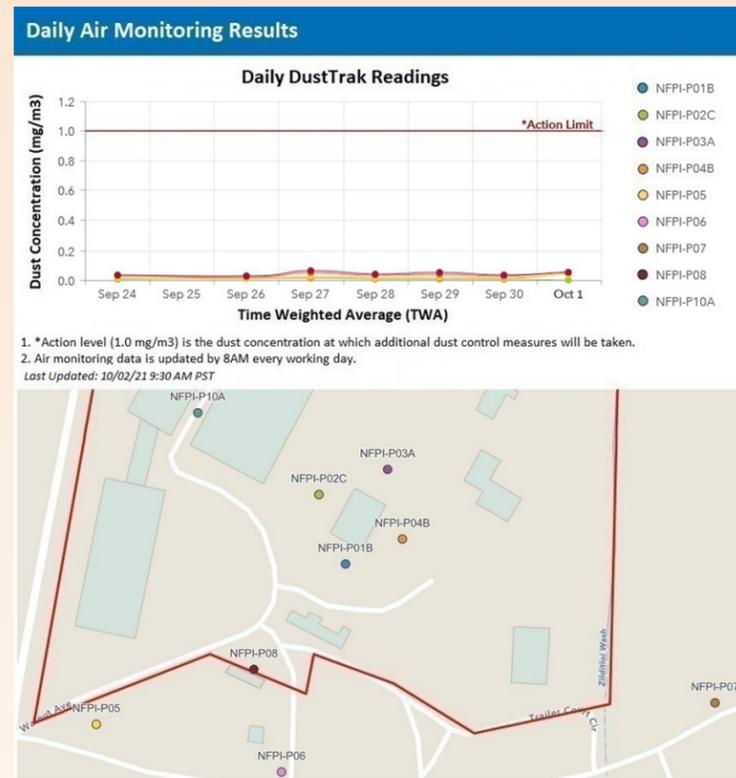


Figure 2: Final Air Monitoring and Air Sampling Locations

Surface Asbestos Removal By Grid

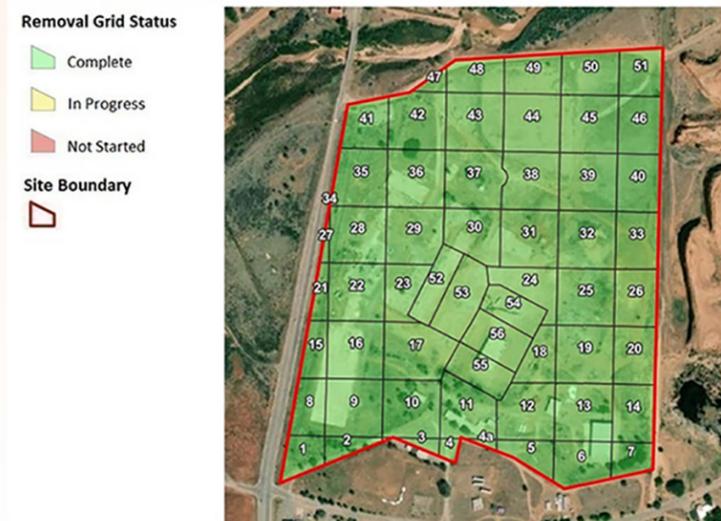


Figure 3: Surface Asbestos Removal By Grid

Cleanup Highlights:

- Removed over 4,000 cubic yards of asbestos material from the former kiln building, piles of building debris and the surface of the NFPI site over 103 acres of the NFPI site surface
- Cleaned up asbestos material on ground across property (see Figure 3)
- Sealed asbestos materials in containers to be moved to a permitted facility off-site

NNEPA will continue assessment and cleanup activities at the site to address asbestos and other types of contamination (pollution) in the soil and groundwater.

Public Health and Safety

USEPA ensured the community was safe during cleanup work:

- Sprayed site with water so dust did not leave the work area
- All work occurred in marked areas and only trained personnel entered
- Security guarded the site seven days a week/24 hours a day to ensure no one entered the site

What Happens Next?

In the future, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency will continue assessment and cleanup activities at the site to address remaining asbestos and other types of contamination within soils and groundwater at the site.

Join the cleanup!

The Navajo Nation formed a Navajo Forest Products Industries Cleanup Advisory Group to assist with and provide input on cleanup work. For more information or to be a part of this group, please contact:

Prestene Garnenez
Community Member
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You can also follow the group on Facebook. Search for [Navajo Forest Products-NFPI Cleanup Advisory Group](#) for more information.

NAVAJO FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES (NFPI) CLEANUP ACTION COMPLETED

**For More Information
See Inside**

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EPA Webpage
response.epa.gov/nfpi

Red Chapter House
<https://redlake18.navajochapters.org/>

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