

Allied Leather Removal Site Boscawen, NH

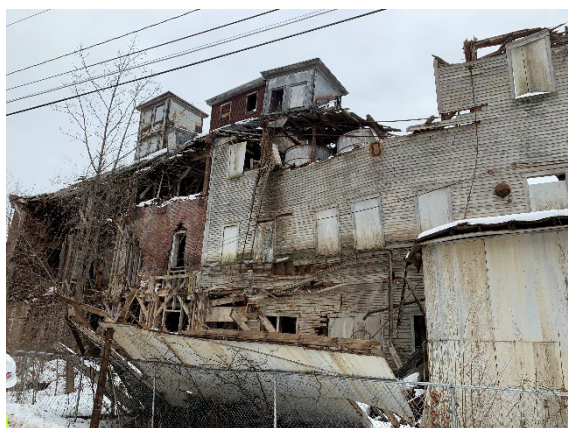


U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

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

The Allied Leather Site (Site) is composed of several buildings along the Contoocook River in Boscawen, NH. The Site was first developed as a sawmill and lumberyard in the 1820s and transitioned into several different types of operations over the decades to include a soap mill, corn mill, flour mill and tannery. The Allied Leather tannery declared bankruptcy in 1987 and was purchased by Hannah Dustin Holdings in 1997 and acquired by the Town of Boscawen in 2009. Through the Site's history, it has become contaminated with asbestos containing materials (ACM), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and other heavy metals in the soil and building materials.



UPCOMING EPA ACTIVITY

Photo is of the collapsing mill building as seen from the street.

Due to partial building collapses into the Contoocook River and current Site conditions, EPA is mobilizing in May 2022 to conduct a time critical removal action at the Allied Leather Site located on Commercial Street in Boscawen, NH. This mobilization includes, but is not limited to, the installation of a temporary fence around the Site, the

delivery of an on-site office trailer and other EPA and contractor equipment in preparation of the removal action. The upcoming removal actions will include the removal of vegetation to gain access to the areas of contamination; removal of the collapsed buildings that continue to act as a source for further contaminant migration; removal of the collapsed portions of the buildings from the river and riverbank, disposal of all waste materials in accordance with all state and federal regulations; and repair any potential removal related damage in preparation to hand the Site back over to the town. EPA will work closely with the state and local partners throughout the removal action. EPA does not currently have a timeline for the completion of the removal action; but will provide updates as the removal progresses.

KEY CONTACTS

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LEARN MORE AT:

response.epa.gov/alliedleather

April 2022



SITE BACKGROUND

Beginning in 2016, the Town started looking into ways to reuse the abandoned site and conducted a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). Samples were collected from the soil, floor debris, standing water and suspected (ACM) during a Phase II ESA. Sample analysis confirmed levels of ACM, PCBs, PAHs, and heavy metals exceeding New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Soil Remediation Standards.

In October 2020, the Town applied for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields cleanup grant to address the contamination found on the Site. The town was awarded the grant in May 2021. No site activity will be funded under the Brownfields grant until after completion of the EPA removal action. After EPA's removal action is complete and time critical hazards have been addressed, the town will be able to use their Brownfields cleanup grant to fund remaining cleanup tasks at the site.

On January 6, 2022, NHDES conducted a site visit and found the property to be in an extreme state of disrepair. A significant portion of the building had collapsed and parts of it were now in the Contoocook River and along the riverbank. There is no longer any remaining roof and the contamination within the building is exposed to the environment.

The Site was referred to EPA's Emergency Planning and Response Branch from NHDES, through the Brownfields Program on January 7, 2022. After visiting the Site on January 28, 2022, EPA made the determination that a removal action was necessary to address the exposed contaminated building materials that may present a hazard to human health and the environment.

On March 22, 2022, EPA was notified by the Town of a further collapse of one of the buildings contaminated with PCB's, asbestos and lead into the adjacent Contoocook River, triggering an Emergency Response. EPA mobilized an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) to the incident to stabilize the site and to contain the debris that fell into the river until the removal action can occur.