



## CLEANUP ACTION

### U.S. EPA to Cleanup Asbestos at the Navajo Tribal Sawmill Enterprise Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is working with the Sawmill Chapter House and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) to clean up asbestos at the Navajo Tribal Sawmill Enterprise Site property. The U.S. EPA's work at the site includes removing asbestos containing material demolishing the former kiln building. The U.S. EPA is doing this work to prevent the community from being exposed to asbestos from the property.

#### Sawmill Property Information



**Figure 1:** View of Kiln Bldg

The site, a former lumber mill, is approximately seven acres and located in the town of Sawmill, Route 72, Sawmill Chapter. The site is owned by the Navajo Nation and is zoned as Tribal Lands. The sawmill was constructed in 1939 and decommissioned in 1963. The site is generally vacant and vegetated with grasses and mature trees. The primary concern with the site is the dilapidated, partially collapsed concrete kiln building, which was used to dry the processed lumber at the facility. (Figure 1: View of Kiln Bldg.) The U.S. EPA found significant amounts of material with asbestos in the building and outside of it on soil.

Residences, the Sawmill Chapter House, and a gas station with market and laundry facilities are close to the kiln building.

#### Asbestos Cleanup Action

The U.S. EPA plans to begin field work for the cleanup in late summer/early Fall 2024 and it will take 4-6 weeks to complete. Work hours are expected to be Monday through Saturday from 7:30am to 5pm. Workers using heavy equipment will demolish the building, remove building debris, and take any asbestos material offsite to be properly disposed of.

You will see:

- A temporary fence will be built around the property to secure it until the work is done.
- Trucks and staff will deliver equipment to be set up and staged.
- Air monitoring units inside and outside the work areas. (see Figure 2)
  - If an air monitor detects high levels of particulate matter (fine, dust-like material) in the air, work will be stopped until the levels decrease.



**Figure 2:** Typical Air Monitoring Unit and Workers in Gear

- Specialized workers in white Tyvek suits and breathing equipment. (see Figure 2)
- Workers spraying water to keep dust from blowing off site.

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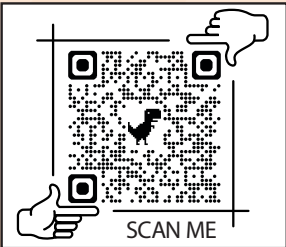
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and air monitoring results:  
[response.epa.gov/oldsawmillasbestos](https://response.epa.gov/oldsawmillasbestos)



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Public Health and Safety

- The U.S. EPA will ensure the community is safe while work happens.
- All work will happen in marked work areas and only trained personnel can enter. (See Figure 2).
  - The area will have a secure fence around while EPA works.

Next Step

After EPA addresses immediate health risks from the site (see back for more information about this work), EPA may evaluate the site again to ensure no further work is needed.