

Atlas Tack

June 2004



Superfund Site Activity Update

Demolition Work to Start at the Atlas Tack Corp. Superfund Site

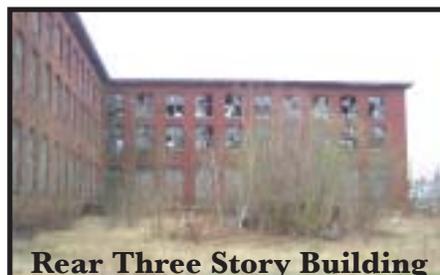
The first phase of the cleanup plan for the Atlas Tack Corp. Superfund site calls for the demolition of certain buildings on the site, aside from the front office building along Pleasant Street. Specifically the buildings to be demolished include: the rear three story building, power plant building, metal building, and two small shed-type structures just east of the rear building.

Demolition work may start as soon as this August and is expected to take about 3 to 4 months. Demolition activities will take place Monday through Friday from 7 am to 5:30 pm. No work will occur on the weekends and holidays.

Truck Information

It will take about 6 to 8 trucks on average per day, each making round trips, to haul the demolition debris to an off-site landfill. The number of trucks may be higher during the peak of demolition. The truck beds will be covered. The trucks will be decontaminated to make sure they are clean before being allowed to leave the site. Local roads will be inspected daily to ensure that they remain free from any demolition debris from the site. Should there be any problems, the local roads will be cleaned as needed.

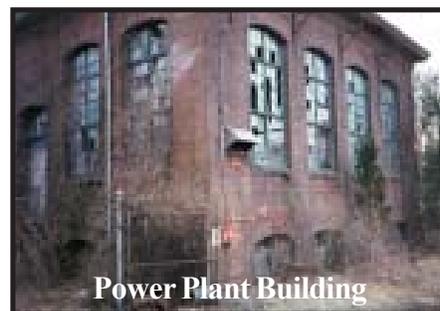
Trucks will not operate during times when school buses are



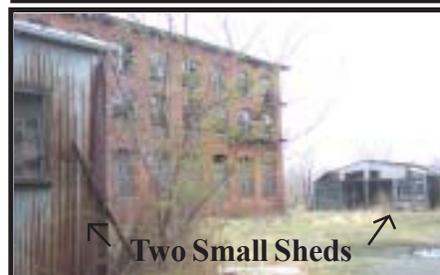
Rear Three Story Building



Metal Building



Power Plant Building



Two Small Sheds

traveling town roads.

The exact routing for the trucks will be decided once EPA has received Town and neighborhood input. At this point, two possible routes are being considered:

1. Out the front gate onto Pleasant Street to Washington Street to Route 6;
2. Out the back gate, cross the bike path to Tripp Street to Washington Street to Route 6.

Air Monitoring

EPA does not anticipate any problems, but as a precaution, air monitoring will be conducted at several off-site points, including Pleasant and Church streets and the bike path. Air monitoring also will occur within the demolition areas. EPA will monitor for dust and contaminants. Up, down and cross-wind measurements will occur with some of the data going to a laboratory for analysis and some being able to be read "real-time," meaning on



Existing Site Human Health Threats:

Worker exposure to contaminated surface soil and sludge in the Commercial Area;

Human ingestion of contaminated Boys Creek shellfish.

Existing Site Environmental Threats:

Movement of contamination to groundwater, surface water and creek sediment from the Commercial Area, the Solid Waste and Debris Area, and the Marsh surface soil;

Exposure of biota to contaminated surface soil and sediment in the Solid Waste and Debris and Marsh Areas, and to contaminated Boys Creek surface water and sediment.

the site as the equipment is detecting any levels. Strict levels have been set and should monitoring results show that those levels have been exceeded, work will stop and corrective action will be taken to control dust or air borne emissions. Air monitoring results will be posted at www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/atlas.

Health and Safety Plan

A Health and Safety Plan is required before the demolition work is allowed to begin. The plan has various requirements, such as:

- authorized personnel only will be allowed on-site
- the demolition areas will be properly secured at the end of each day
- an established emergency response plan.

Site Cleanup Plan

The cleanup plan is broken into three phases.

Phase I includes the demolition of certain buildings on the site, aside from the office building along Pleasant Street. It also includes the restoration of the area with clean backfill.

Phase II is anticipated to take a year and involves the excavation of contaminated soil in the Commercial and Solid Waste and Debris Areas. These soils will be trucked to appropriate off-site facilities. Once excavation is complete, clean soil and vegetation will be used to restore the site.

Phase III comprises the excavation of contaminated marsh soils and creek bed sediment followed by the restoration of the marsh and is expected to take 4 months. The design, or the specific details for how this cleanup phase will be done, will be complete in September 2004.

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The site is divided into three areas: the **Commercial Area**; the **Solid Waste and Debris Area**; and the **Marsh and Creek Bed Areas** (see map above). The major contaminants in the Commercial Area consist of metals, cyanide, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Metals, cyanide and pesticides contaminate the Solid Waste and Debris Area. And metals and cyanide are of concern in the Marsh and Creek Bed Areas.

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Location of Major Contaminants on the Atlas Tack Superfund Site



When Will Phase II and III of the Cleanup Plan Happen?

Funding decisions are made annually during a national competitive process. Each site is ranked on:

- Human health risk
- Ecological risk
- Impact of delay on human health & ecological risks
- Financial impact of delay
- Impact of delay on community and state interests and on economic redevelopment.

EPA New England submits the Atlas Tack site for consideration annually, but does not control the ultimate funding decisions.

For More Information:

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Site History

Founded in about 1901, Atlas Tack Corporation manufactured tacks, nails, shoe eyelets and similar items at this site until the facility closed in about 1985. Process wastes were disposed of on the ground and in adjacent wetlands, and were discharged into an on-site lagoon. High levels of heavy metals, cyanide, PCBs, pesticides, and other contaminants have impacted area groundwater and surface waters, in addition to the site soil, sediment and portions of the buildings. Site location: residential area, 200 feet from an elementary school, around 7,200 people live within one mile, and 15,150 live within three miles.

- 1985 MA DEP completes an emergency action to cleanup lagoon.
- 1990 EPA adds site to Superfund's National Priorities List (hazardous waste sites).
- 1990-1995 EPA conducts Remedial Investigation, a study to determine nature & extent of contamination and risks to human health and environment.
- 1992 EPA orders Atlas Tack Corporation to fence site.
- 1996-1998 EPA conducts Feasibility Study to determine cleanup options.
- 1998 EPA issues Proposed Cleanup Plan.
- 1999-2000 Atlas Tack fails to comply with Administrative Order after which EPA removes asbestos from power plant and three-story building.
- 2000 EPA issues Record of Decision (cleanup plan) & a special notice of responsibility and potential liability to Atlas Tack Corporation.
- 2001 EPA conducts a bioavailability study to refine marsh excavation & restoration plans.