

Atlas Tack

July 2005



Superfund Site Activity Update

Atlas Tack Corp. Superfund Site: Three-Story Building Demolished



Demolition Progress

Demolition of the Three-Story Building started July 12, 2005 and was finished six days later. The demolition debris is now being separated and processed. Some of the debris has been removed by haul trucks.

Air Monitoring Results

During site work days, EPA has been monitoring hourly along the site's perimeter for dust particulates and asbestos. Periodic monitoring off-site in the neighborhood is also being conducted. Results show that **community and workers have not been exposed to unsafe conditions: monitoring results are well below the respective action levels.** If these levels are ever reached, work would stop and corrective measures would be taken.

Dust Particulate Action Level - The National Ambient Air Quality standard for particulates is 150 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) over an average of 24 hours. EPA, however, is using this value for a one hour period as its action level. The average levels recorded between July 11 and July 15, 2005 at the sampling locations ranged from 0 to $0.04 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, with most readings valued at zero. **The maximum level recorded was $13 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to the action level of $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.**

Asbestos Action Level is 0.010 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc). Average readings ranged from 0 to 0.003 f/cc between July 11 and July 15th, well below the action level. Most readings were zero. Samples from each location were also taken into the trailer for microscopic readings to verify the data.

Weekly air data and the monitoring station locations, 4 on-site and 4 off-site in the neighborhood, are posted at Townhall and at:
www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/atlas



Dust Particulate Air Monitor



Expected Near Future Activities

For the next couple of weeks, site activities will include the continued processing of building debris. Heavy equipment will separate out metal, brick, wood, concrete, and other debris, and load haul trucks. Clean bricks that are crushed will eventually be used on-site as fill. Other activities include the continued work to prepare the boiler building for demolition. That demolition should begin in a few weeks.

Truck Information

The trucks removing the demolition debris are hauling it to off-site landfills and a metal recovery facility. The trucks are decontaminated to make sure they are clean and dry before being allowed to leave the site. Local roads are inspected daily to ensure that they remain free from any demolition debris from the site. Should there be any problems, they will be cleaned as needed.

The hauling trucks enter and exit the site out the back gate, cross the bike path to Tripp Street, proceed to Washington Street, and then to Route 6 East, before connecting to Route 240. Other site traffic use the Pleasant Street gate.

Each time a truck crosses over the bike path, personnel are on hand to stop trucks while pedestrian and bike traffic passes. They also ensure the truck crossing stays clean.

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Site History

Founded in about 1901, Atlas Tack Corporation manufactured tacks, nails, shoe eyelets and similar items at this site in Fairhaven, MA 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.
- 2002-2004 EPA conducts Remedial Design for each cleanup phase.