

Atlas Tack

September 2005



Atlas Tack Corp. Superfund Site Activity Update

Cleanup Progress

After 2 ½ months of demolition work, the three story building, boiler building, and smokestack have been demolished. Most of the demolition debris from these structures has been sorted and hauled off-site. The clean bricks from these buildings will be broken up and eventually will be used as fill on-site. Currently, the concrete slabs under the former buildings are in the process of being re-

removed. This concrete also will be crushed and used as on-site fill. Should the concrete not be clean, it will be removed by haul trucks. A sampling program will be undertaken in the coming

weeks to will determine the extent and location of soil and sludge contamination. This contamination will be removed and trucked to licensed landfills. After the soil and sludge removal, the impacted area will be graded and back filled as needed. All of this work is expected to be finished by the end of December, depending on how extensive the contamination is under the slabs.



Smokestack Demolition



Truck Information

Starting around the second week of November, the contaminated soil and sludge will be hauled to licensed landfills. Now that school is back in session, trucks will not operate during the start and end of the Rogers Elementary School day: specifically between 7:45 am and 8:45 am and then between 2:30 pm and 3:15 pm. 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.

The trucks are hosed down to make sure they are clean before being allowed to leave the site.

The water used to clean the trucks is captured and put into a tank. It is then tested and if clean, is used again. 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.

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.

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

Air Monitoring Results

During site work days, EPA has been monitoring hourly along the site's perimeter for dust particulates. 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 action level.** If this level is ever reached, work would stop and corrective measures would be taken. (Asbestos monitoring had been included but has been discontinued since all asbestos removal has been completed.)

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. To be extremely protective, EPA is using this value for a one hour period as its action level. The average levels recorded between September 8 and September 14, 2005 at the sampling locations ranged from 0 to $0.939 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, with most readings valued at zero. **The maximum level recorded was $14.750 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to the action level of $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

Phase II Cleanup Funds Secured

The cleanup of the Atlas Tack Corp. Superfund site is broken into three phases. As discussed above, Phase I is expected to be complete in December. Three million in funding has been secured for Phase II, which is expected to start in December. Phase II will consist of the excavation and disposal of contaminated soil and debris from the Fill Area (also referred to as the Solid Waste and Disposal Area), located east and southeast from where the buildings once stood to the marsh. The next public information meeting will be held at 7 pm, Thursday, November 10, 2005 in Fairhaven Town Hall to report on the completion of Phase I and to discuss in more detail what to expect from Phase II work.



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.

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