
Blighted Property Evaluated For Environmental Cleanup

3456 North Buffum St.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the investigation and planned cleanup of 3456 N. Buffum St., contact these team members:

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Detailed information can be found in the **Site Administrative Record** available at the WDNR Service Center, 2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Contact EPA OSC Kathy Halbur to view the file.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is investigating the public health risks and environmental effects caused by previous business operations at 3456 N. Buffum St. in Milwaukee. The Redevelopment Authority of the city of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Health Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Department of Health Services are assisting EPA with the investigation.

Site background

The abandoned three-story building was built in the early 1900s. It has a long history of industrial uses, including a furniture factory, yeast manufacturer, feed and fertilizer supplier, animal research laboratory, chemical processor, soap manufacturer, scrap and electronic metals recycler, industrial wheel manufacturer, plastics maker, fiberglass fabricator, and woodworking shop. The previous businesses left behind hazardous waste and building, soil and groundwater contamination. The last business to operate in the building closed in 2008. The building has fallen into disrepair. Over the past few years, trespassing and illegal dumping have been persistent problems at the property. The city of Milwaukee has secured the building and posted warning signs notifying site visitors of the dangers posed by the contamination.

Contaminants of concern include lead, polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, chlorinated solvents (mainly trichloroethylene, known as TCE), waste oil, flammable and corrosive materials, and asbestos.

Next steps

EPA will use the results of the investigation to initiate a Superfund cleanup of the property. Superfund is the federal government's program to clean up sites containing uncontrolled hazardous substances. If the property owner or businesses that operated at the site are not able to conduct the cleanup in accordance with the EPA's specifications and timeframes, the Agency may use public funds to lessen the public health and environmental risks identified by the investigation.

Updates on the status of the investigation, enforcement and cleanup are available at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/buffum or from any of the contacts listed on this fact sheet.

View of 3456 N. Buffum St., looking southeast.

