



EPA Removing Abandoned Waste at Industrial Property

Buffum Street Cleanup Site

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

May 2014

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 plans to begin removing waste abandoned inside the blighted property located at 3456 N. Buffum St. in early June. The three-story building, located at the end of the recreational Beerline Trail, has a long history of industrial uses. The building has been vacant since 2008 and has fallen into disrepair making it susceptible to trespassing and vandalism.

EPA is working with the assistance of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Health Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Officials determined property conditions warrant EPA involvement authorized under the Superfund law called a “time-critical removal action.” The property owner and previous operators are not able to conduct the needed cleanup so taxpayer funds will be used to lessen the public health and environmental risks identified by the EPA.

Removing waste inside the building is expected to take around two months. EPA and its contractors will be on-site weekdays 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Security will be present during non-working hours throughout the cleanup project. Residents can expect increased truck traffic on Keefe Avenue, Holton and Buffum streets as well as the alleys that surround the property. Access to the Beerline Trail next to the property may be restricted at times.

Contaminants inside the building include lead, polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs, chlorinated solvents (mainly trichloroethylene, known as TCE), waste oil, flammable and corrosive materials, and asbestos. The known public health risks are contained inside the structure. EPA will conduct air monitoring throughout the cleanup to verify operations do not affect neighboring residences.

Updates on the status of the cleanup are available from any of the team members listed on this fact sheet or on the Web at: www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/buffum.



Some of the waste abandoned by previous businesses. Evidence of an attempted break-in through the loading dock door can be seen on the right.