

**DEMOLITION WORK PLANNED TO ADDRESS
ASBESTOS AT CHARLESTOWN MALL SITE
CITY OF UTICA & TOWN OF FRANKFORT, NEW YORK**

OCTOBER 2021

REGION 2



Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin to demolish buildings, decontaminate recyclable building materials and dispose of asbestos and asbestos-containing debris at the Charlestown Mall site in the city of Utica and town of Frankfort, New York, this October. EPA expects to suspend activities during the winter months and will resume work in spring 2022. Buildings along Turner Street will remain standing until 2022.

EPA is developing a Community Air Monitoring Plan that will be in place before the demolition begins. During the demolition, EPA will monitor the air and evaluate and properly dispose of hazardous materials found at the site.



Past Activities

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) referred the Charlestown Mall site to EPA in 2008 after unpermitted demolition that had caused a release of asbestos to the environment was discovered.

An assessment of the site conducted in 2008 and 2009 confirmed the presence of asbestos-contaminated debris, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination from leaking transformers, and abandoned drums in the former boiler house.

EPA removed nearly 16,000 tons of asbestos-contaminated demolition debris, PCB-contaminated debris and soil, as well as abandoned drums containing ignitable, corrosive and toxic liquids from the site from 2010-2011.

On the morning of August 27, 2020, local fire departments responded to a fire at the site that spread quickly through much of the facility. The fire caused four of the seven remaining structures to partially collapse and damaged six of the seven structures.

NYSDEC formally requested that EPA assess the site because of the asbestos presumed to be present in building remnants in September 2020.

EPA installed a chain link fence and boarded up entry points into the buildings in fall 2020. EPA posted signs to warn the public about the hazards associated with the site.

While securing the site, EPA inspected the facility and found drums containing hazardous substances. These drums have been tested and secured for disposal.

Site Background

The Charlestown Mall site, located at 311 Turner Street, Utica, New York and 2205 Bleecker Street, Frankfort, New York, is the location of a former manufacturing facility that was built by Savage Arms Company beginning in the late 1890s before being sold to Sperry Univac in the 1950s. In 1976, the facility was sold and a portion of it was redeveloped into the Charlestown Outlet Complex which operated later as the Charlestown Business Complex into the early 2000s. Over the years, buildings at the site were not properly maintained and became extremely deteriorated.

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