

MAY 2025

Smokestack Deconstruction

Over the next month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, will be taking down the upper half of the smokestack at the Allied Textile Printing site, also known as the ATP site, next to Quarry Lawn Park in Paterson, New Jersey. This will be the first major step in addressing the asbestos contamination at the site. In its current condition, the smokestack is at risk of collapsing, which threatens the safety of the workers when heavy equipment is used on the site.

After the top half of the smokestack is taken down, a structural engineer will assess the lower portion of the smokestack and determine if the smokestack is stable or if more brick must be removed to make it stable.



ATP Asbestos Contamination

The Allied Textile Printing site includes several structures that are falling apart. One of these structures is a 118-foot-tall smokestack that is unstable, leaning, and at risk of collapsing. The smokestack and the building below the smokestack, called the Boiler House Complex, are contaminated with asbestos and lead. These contaminants have the potential to spread as the structures break down and material becomes airborne.

Smokestack Deconstruction Process and Safety Plan

The EPA has developed a plan to take down the unstable portions of the smokestack in a way that protects workers and community members from asbestos.

- A worker wearing a protective suit and respirator will work in a manlift to remove the bricks one by one from the top of the smokestack.
- As bricks are removed from the top of the smokestack, they will be sent down a fabric chute in order to prevent dust spreading into the air.
- After the bricks reach the ground, they will be stockpiled in the onsite staging area.
- Throughout this process, the EPA will spray the area around the smokestack and the smokestack itself with water to ensure that dust that could contain asbestos is not being released into the air.
- The EPA will test bricks for asbestos at multiple points as the smokestack is taken apart to determine if they are free of contamination, and it is safe for the bricks to remain onsite.
- The EPA will monitor and sample the air around the perimeter of the site as the work takes place to ensure dust controls are effective. The community will be able to view perimeter air monitoring and sampling data at: response.epa.gov/alliedtextileprintingrv3

Asbestos

Asbestos is the name given to a group of six different fibrous minerals (amosite, chrysotile, crocidolite, and the fibrous varieties of tremolite, actinolite, and anthophyllite) that occur naturally in the environment. Because of its characteristics, asbestos has been used for a wide range of manufactured goods including building materials and heat resistant materials.

Exposure to asbestos usually occurs by breathing contaminated air in workplaces that make or use asbestos. Asbestos may be found in vintage industrial buildings that are being torn down or renovated. Asbestos exposure can cause serious lung problems and cancer. People with asbestosis have difficulty breathing, often a cough, and in severe cases, heart enlargement.

For more information about asbestos, visit: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts61.pdf>

Lead

Lead is a natural metal that can be found in air, water, and soil. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body, particularly the nervous system. For more information about lead, visit:

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf

Next Steps After Smokestack Deconstruction

The EPA has developed procedures to protect residents and workers during the asbestos and lead removal.

- After the smokestack is made safe to work around, the EPA will begin working to address asbestos and lead in the surrounding boiler house. The EPA will demolish the Boiler House Complex structures as carefully as possible, removing asbestos and lead material throughout the process. Once it is safe to work inside the Boiler House Complex, the EPA will remove asbestos and lead contaminated ash from the boilers. The boilers are expected to be left in place for historic preservation.
- After the EPA finishes working in the Boiler House Complex, the agency will conduct soil sampling to ensure that the contamination has been fully addressed. The EPA will also conduct sampling within Quarry Lawn Park to ensure that the park is safe to reopen for workers and park visitors.

Site Background and Historic Preservation

The Allied Textile Printing site is within the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. For over a century the site was central to the manufacturing and textile industry in Paterson, New Jersey. The Colt Gun Mill was built in 1836 to manufacture firearms and remnants of the building are still there today. The site became a hub for textile manufacturing including silk and dyeing until closure in the 1980s.

The EPA recognizes that some of these contaminated structures are historically significant to the City of Paterson and other stakeholders. The EPA will continue to work with the city, the National Park Service, and historical preservation stakeholders to ensure that throughout the process, the EPA is balancing the need to protect workers, the community, and the environment with the desire to preserve the historical buildings.

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