



MARCH 2024

Demolition of Buildings

In early April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will demolish the buildings on the former Wolff-Alport Chemical Company property, located at 1127 and 1129 Irving Avenue. Demolition of the buildings is necessary to remove radiologically-contaminated building materials and the contaminated soil underneath the buildings.



Upcoming Work in Your Neighborhood

Each weekday during normal business hours, about five trucks will travel to and from the property to transport materials. The trucks will enter the former Wolff-Alport Chemical Company property using Irving Ave. to Moffat St. and leave using Cooper Ave. They will then travel on Cooper Ave. to Atlantic Ave. All demolition work is scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2024. EPA will share any changes or additional information about truck and equipment road use, such as road closures, on the site's website and through the site's mailing list.

You can join the site's mailing list by visiting EPA's website or by emailing greally.maya@epa.gov.

Health and Safety

To restrict access, EPA installed fencing around the entire property and is providing 24/7 security surveillance with a security guard on-duty during nonwork hours.

EPA worked with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and its contractor to develop plans to protect the site workers and the surrounding community and to minimize dust and noise.

The contractor will cover the debris and materials during the demolition. They will also limit the speed of the equipment and vehicles on-site, place wind barriers, and spray dust-suppressants, such as water, as needed to control dust.

The contractor will inspect all trucks transporting radiologically-contaminated materials off-site to ensure that the materials are securely contained before being allowed to leave the property.

During the cleanup, the contractor will monitor the air 24/7 at four strategic points on the northern, southern, eastern, and western boundaries of the property, as shown on the map to the left.



This monitoring will provide real-time information on the amount of dust in the air. If dust levels go above the EPA-approved maximum level, the site team will receive an alert immediately so that they can investigate the cause and pause work, if necessary.

EPA, USACE, and USACE's contractor will evaluate what methods will be most effective to control the impact of noise to the community once the demolition work begins. These methods can include exhaust mufflers, fence line noise barriers, and other noise-minimizing technologies.

Background

The site borders Queens and Brooklyn and includes the Wolff Alport Chemical property. The Wolff-Alport Chemical Company operated on the property from 1920-1954 processing monazite sand, which contains thorium. They disposed of the thorium waste on the property and in the sewers, which caused the current radiological contamination on the property.

After placing the site on the Superfund National Priorities List in 2014, EPA determined that the best way to address the radiological contamination was to relocate the on-property commercial and residential tenants, demolish the on-property buildings, dig up radiologically contaminated on- and off-property soil, and clean up the radiologically impacted sewer system.



Thorium is a naturally occurring radioactive substance found in small amount in rocks, soil, and water. As thorium breaks down, it releases small amounts of radiation. Additional information about thorium can be found at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts147.pdf>.

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For general information or questions about EPA's Superfund program, please contact [Jim Haklar](#) of EPA's Regional Public Liaison Office, at haklar.james@epa.gov, or (732) 906-6817 or toll free at (888) 283-7626.