

# Aerovox Mill Site New Bedford, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM** protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

## INTRODUCTION:

The Aerovox building was used for electrical component manufacturing, which included the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and various solvents. From approximately the 1940's until 1978, operations and disposal practices led to the release and disposal of PCBs and solvents that contaminated soils, building materials and equipment, surface water runoff and groundwater at the site. This 450,000 sq. ft. building is situated on about 10 acres of industrial-zoned land beside the Acushnet River. EPA has been actively sampling the building, surrounding soil and groundwater to help determine the best cleanup approach. On-site work for the demolition is scheduled to begin April, 2011. The physical demolition of the building's structure is expected to begin by fall of 2011.

## 2010 SITE PROGRESS

- June 2010, settlements between AVX Corporation and EPA, MassDEP and the City of New Bedford ensure funding for the vacant mill to be demolished, the debris to be disposed of offsite, and the site capped. Additional cleanup work including groundwater, will also be conducted according to the state 21E hazardous waste cleanup law.
- June of 2010, planning and procurement activities for the building dismantling began.

## 2011: WHAT TO EXPECT

It will be more difficult to see the progress as work takes place inside the building. Work crews must first remove interior material and debris and safely decommission utilities which will take several months to complete. Dismantling of the exterior structure of the building is expected to begin fall of 2011.

- Rigorous air and water quality monitoring and stormwater management will take place (from runoff collected from rainfall and dust suppression). EPA oversight of the data collection and validation will ensure that the project is progressing safely.
- Strict air and water quality standards will be used to compare with the collected data results. Background, or currently existing, air quality measurements will be recorded prior to the start of on-site work to verify that environmental conditions are not been impacted by the demolition.
- Data results will be made available to the public as soon as they are available. EPA will post summaries of the each day's data at [www.epa.gov/nbh/aerovox](http://www.epa.gov/nbh/aerovox).
- Real-time air quality monitors will be operating at the site to ensure worker safety and alert work crews to the presence of dust that could carry airborne contaminants. In such an event, work would stop until the source is identified and controlled, if site-related. EPA will be able to report daily on these results.

## KEY CONTACTS:

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All exterior and interior building material and debris will be disposed off-site at appropriately licensed landfills; the building foundation will remain on-site under a protective cap. Once the demolition and capping work is completed, the State cleanup program begins.

### PLANNING

(approx. 10 months)

EPA review & approval of contractor project plans such as:

- Health & Safety
- Emergency Response
- Air and Stormwater Management & Monitoring,
- Hazardous Material Removal & Disposal
- Building Demolition Plan

The phase will conclude with the mobilization of contractor equipment to the site.

### HAZARDOUS MATERIAL REMOVAL

(approx. 5 months)

Work to remove interior waste and debris such as:

- hazardous liquids
- biological wastes (e.g., pigeon guano)
- universal wastes (e.g., computer monitors, batteries, refrigerants, gas cylinders)
- asbestos containing materials
- mercury

Air monitoring will begin during this phase.

### BUILDING DEMOLITION

(approx. 12 months)

- processing of building materials
- transportation and disposal of building materials
- backfilling of building footprint with clean fill
- installation of the protective cap

Air monitoring will continue and stormwater monitoring will begin during this phase.

### AFTER BUILDING REMOVAL

Once the building is removed and the site is capped, further site characterization, including the extent of groundwater contamination, will be conducted under the State 21-E program and additional cleanup will occur as required by the 21-E program.

The settlement between AVX and the City of New Bedford provides for a clean utility corridor for future redevelopment, that long-term site monitoring and maintenance will be funded, and establishes a cost-sharing approach for a future shoreline greenway.

We understand there are many concerns about the demolition and we will work to keep you informed throughout the project. We encourage you to contact us with any questions.

