



**RELOCATION UNDERWAY AT WOLFF ALPORT
CHEMICAL COMPANY SUPERFUND SITE
RIDGEWOOD, NEW YORK**

APRIL 2022



Current and Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), awarded a contract to demolish the on-property buildings on April 21, 2022, as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s [cleanup plan selected](#) for the site. The contractors will demolish the buildings after occupants have left their properties. The demolition work could begin this fall if the buildings on the site are vacant by the summer.

EPA and USACE have been communicating with the commercial and residential tenants at the site property over the past several years to assist them in applying for relocation assistance. EPA has been unable to secure the cooperation of several business tenants. To avoid further delays to the project, EPA took legal action in March 2022, requiring the buildings to be vacant by July 31, 2022. While EPA understands it is difficult for businesses to relocate, it is necessary for the properties to be vacant for the cleanup to begin and to prevent health threats to the tenants from the radiological contamination in building materials and the soil underneath the buildings. The current owners will continue to own their respective properties throughout the cleanup, and the properties can be redeveloped after the site cleanup. EPA will provide more information about the planned building demolitions and plans to meet with the community once occupants have vacated, and we know when the work will begin. EPA's contractor is currently developing the engineering design to remove the contaminated soil. EPA anticipates performing additional soil sampling later this spring and summer. Removal of this soil will take place following the building demolitions.

EPA has also been working with New York City over the past year to develop plans for a pre-design investigation (PDI) and the design of the cleanup of the sidewalks, streets, and sewers. The investigation could begin as early as this summer. EPA and New York City will coordinate the scheduling of their cleanup work activities to minimize impacts to the community from noise, truck traffic, road closures, etc.

Background

The now-defunct Wolff-Alport Chemical Company operated from 1920 until 1954, processing imported monazite sand to extract rare earth metals. Monazite contains approximately 6% to 8% thorium, which is radioactive. The company disposed of thorium waste in the sewer and on its property until 1947, when the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission ordered the company to stop that disposal practice. The site comprises an area of radiological contamination in Ridgewood, New York, on the border of Queens and Brooklyn. The site includes the former Wolff-Alport Chemical Company



**RELOCATION UNDERWAY AT WOLFF ALPORT
CHEMICAL COMPANY SUPERFUND SITE
RIDGEWOOD, NY**



property, a roughly triangular area of approximately 0.75 acres that is now subdivided into several commercial properties as well as adjacent streets, sidewalks, commercial and residential

properties and the sewer system where contaminants have migrated or have the potential to migrate in the future. EPA installed lead, steel, and concrete shielding in some on-site buildings and adjacent sidewalks between October 2012 and April 2014. EPA added the Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site to the National Priorities List in May 2014 and selected the cleanup plan for the site in 2017. The plan called for relocating commercial and residential tenants, demolishing the on-property buildings, digging up and removing radiologically-contaminated soil, cleaning and removing the radiologically impacted sewer system, and disposing the contaminated soil, sewer system sediments, and building debris off-site. In September 2018, EPA finalized the building demolition design component of the plan.

EPA Contact Information

Donette Samuel
Community Involvement Coordinator
(212) 637-3570
Samuel.Donette@epa.gov

Thomas Mongelli
Remedial Project Manager
(212) 637-4256
Mongelli.Tom@epa.gov



www.epa.gov/superfund/wolff-alport



<https://www.facebook.com/eparegion2/>



https://twitter.com/EPA_region2