

Former Nova Dye & Print Corporation Fire: Questions and Answers

This fact sheet was put together by the CT Department of Public Health (CTDPH), in conjunction with the City of Waterbury and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP). The fact sheet provides information for Waterbury residents about the recent fire at the former Nova Dye and Print Corporation site, the upcoming demolition activities and the city's future plans for the site. Please see page 4 for agency contact information.

BACKGROUND

The site of the recent fire at 313 Mill Street has been occupied over the years by various manufacturers that dyed, bleached, washed and/ or printed textiles, including the American Mills Company, Princeton Knitting Mills Inc., Ecco, Inc., Fleisher Finishing, Inc. and the Nova Dye and Print Corporation. The buildings have been abandoned since 2003. The site is currently owned by 313 Mill Street Associates, LLC.



The fire started on Saturday, April 7, 2012 and spread through the factory, fueled by oil-soaked timber, machinery and other debris, including trash that people had dumped inside. The Waterbury Fire Department responded, along with CTDEEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New England Region. The factory complex was largely destroyed. Plans are underway to demolish the entire factory and clean up the site.

WERE THERE ANY HEALTH RISKS FROM THE SMOKE DURING THE FIRE?

Smoke from any fire contains particles and chemicals that can cause immediate symptoms like eye and throat irritation. We do not believe that the smoke from this fire was more dangerous than smoke from any other fire. There should not be any long term health effects for anyone who was near the fire or breathed in any of the smoke.

WHAT WAS RELEASED DURING THE FIRE? WAS ASBESTOS RELEASED DURING THE FIRE?

Limited air testing conducted when the fire was still smoldering on April 8 did not find chemicals at levels of concern. There was no air testing done during the peak of the fire so we do not know for sure if any chemicals or asbestos were released into the air. However, we do not believe that significant amounts of any chemicals were released based upon environmental inspections of the factory complex completed prior to the fire. In addition, EPA removed many drums of chemicals and several tons of asbestos material

during a clean-up in 2010. Air sampling conducted during other large fires involving factory buildings has not found airborne exposure to asbestos in the area around the fire. It is possible that a small number of asbestos fibers were released into the air during the fire, however these fibers would stay in the air and move away from the neighborhood with the wind. We do not believe these asbestos fibers would have contaminated the soil or buildings in the neighborhood. Four samples of the roofing material collected after the fire were tested for asbestos. The results indicate that the roofing material was not an asbestos-containing material. Therefore, if any roofing debris did leave the site, it will not likely cause an asbestos exposure hazard. In addition, government officials did a visual inspection of the community after the fire. They did not see any debris that looked like asbestos material that we sometimes see with other mill fires.

WHAT IS THE HEALTH RISK OF ASBESTOS?

When asbestos fibers are breathed in over a long period of time, they can increase the risk of lung cancer and another cancer called mesothelioma. These diseases result from long term exposure to asbestos. We do not believe there was enough exposure during the fire to increase such risk. In fact, there may have been no exposures and therefore no health risk.

WHAT WILL BE DONE TO PROTECT THE NEIGHBORHOOD DURING DEMOLITION?

In accordance with state law, an asbestos plan will be prepared by an asbestos consultant before demolition starts. The plan must be reviewed and approved by the CTDPH. A licensed asbestos contractor will work alongside the demolition company and will be responsible for removing the asbestos. Demolition will be carried out so that there are no visible dust emissions as determined by a full-time, on-site monitor independent of the demolition contractor. Water-misting, wetting or foaming will be used in the immediate work area to hold down dust generation. Air monitoring will be done continuously during active demolition. A wind sock will be used to monitor wind directions and work will be stopped if conditions are determined to be unacceptable, such as high winds. A portable truck-wash station will be set up near the work area to avoid on and off-site dust-tracking, and the travel routes on site will be regularly wetted and cleaned to further control the possibility of dust tracking. Runoff controls will be used to prevent discharges to the river.

WILL AIR MONITORING BE DONE DURING DEMOLITION? FOR WHAT CHEMICALS?

Air monitoring for asbestos will be done on a daily basis during the demolition to make sure the work practices are effective at preventing exposures. Air samples will be collected from several locations during work hours. The locations where air samples will be collected will depend upon weather conditions (wind direction, wind speed) and the area of the site where work is occurring.



HOW WILL THE AIR MONITORING DATA BE EVALUATED?

The air sampling plan will be reviewed and approved by the CTDPH before the work starts. The sampling results will be reviewed each day by the asbestos consultant. Those results will be compared to the standard that is used for completing asbestos abatement conducted inside a building. If the results are above the standard at any time, the project will be stopped and no further work will be permitted. The CTDPH will be contacted. The work practices being used will be reviewed and changed to make sure the public is protected. The work will not be allowed to restart until the CTDPH approves it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE MONITORING RESULTS EXCEED STANDARDS? HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY BE INFORMED?

If the action level for asbestos is exceeded at any time, the project will be stopped and no further work will be permitted. The work practices being used will be evaluated and a determination will be made whether they need to be changed. The work will not be allowed to restart until the CTDPH approves it. If a problem occurs during the demolition, neighbors will be immediately informed and specific precautions will be announced at that time.

Community members can contact Kevin Taylor with the Waterbury Redevelopment Corporation with questions about air monitoring results. The phone number is (203) 346-2607 x 103.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD THE PUBLIC TAKE DURING DEMOLITION?

People living near the site will not need to take any specific precautions, because of the safety measures that will be taken during the demolition. However, some common sense steps such as not letting children play near the site and closing windows when possible may be considered.



WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS FOR THE SITE?

At this time there are two developers interested in the site for work force housing which would center around amenities such as parks, a co-op community run coffee house, a non profit farmers market featuring produce from local communal gardens and a club house.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

<p><u>CT Department of Public Health</u></p> <p>Asbestos Program: Ron Skomro 860) 509-7367 ron.skomro.ct.gov</p> <p>Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program: Brian Toal/Kenny Foscue (860) 509-7740 brian.toal@ct.gov</p> <p>Web Site: www.ct.gov/dph</p>	<p><u>Waterbury Development Corp.</u></p> <p>24 Leavenworth Street Waterbury, CT 06702 Kevin Taylor (203) 346-2607 x 103 taylor@wdconline.org</p>	<p><u>CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection</u></p> <p>Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division: Dave Poynton (860) 424-3661 david.poynton@ct.gov</p> <p>Remediation Division: Pat DeRosa 860-424-3501 pat.derosa@ct.gov</p> <p>Web Site: www.ct.gov/dep</p>
<p><u>Waterbury Health Department</u></p> <p>William Quinn, Acting Director of Health (203) 574-6780 healthdesk@waterburyct.org</p> <p>Web Site: www.waterburyct.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>EPA Region 1</u></p> <p>Richard Haworth On-Scene Coordinator 617-918-1229</p> <p>Kelsey O'Neil Community Involvement Coordinator 617-918-1799</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Frank Gardner Brownfields Program 617-918-1278</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Web Site: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/states/ct.html</p>	



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