Re

**EPA to Resume Cleanup Activities of the Liberty Asbestos Site in Lockport, NY**

**Community Update July 2014**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Our goal is to keep you informed.**

EPA encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Liberty Asbestos Site, please contact one of the following:

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) will resume cleanup activities at the former Liberty Plant Maintenance Inc. facility located at 89 Mill Street in the City of Lockport, NY the week of July 7, 2014.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The site is approximately 1.5 acres and contains a 13,000 square foot former boiler house between Mill, Clinton, Olcott, and Chapel Streets. This 3 story masonry structure is falling apart and the asbestos within the building has deteriorated to a point at which it can easily be spread to various areas of the site. The current owner purchased the site in September 2010 and began to dismantle parts of the structure, which further disturbed contaminated areas of the building and is believed to have contributed to the spread of asbestos. The New York State Department of Labor and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have overseen work at the site since 2010 and requested EPA involvement in March 2012.

**PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES**

EPA conducted an initial assessment in spring 2012 and immediately began negotiating with the property owner to either restrict access to the site or consent to allow EPA to do so. EPA obtained limited legal access to the property in August 2012 and secured the site. Due to the threat posed by the asbestos and evidence that people were trespassing on the site, EPA restricted access by installing a fence around the asbestos contaminated areas of the site. Areas of the building were sprayed with a substance that hardens and traps the asbestos fibers in place. EPA also decontaminated a parking area, removing sediment and soil from the parking area where DOL had observed asbestos during a previous inspection. In April 2014, EPA obtained sufficient legal access from the property owner to proceed with the demolition of the former boiler house.

**FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

The agency has a contractor to conduct the cleanup activities at the site which will include asbestos abatement and demolition of the former boiler house.

All activities at the site will be directed by EPA and will be conducted in a safe manner ensuring that people’s health and the environment are protected at all times. Air monitoring will be conducted both on site and in the community in order to verify that actions being taken by EPA are protective of public health.