



REMOVAL

# Stamina Mills Site

## North Smithfield, RI

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

### THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

*responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.*



### BACKGROUND

The Stamina Mills Site is located along the Branch River on School Street in the Forestdale section of North Smithfield. The 4.7-acre Site began operations in the late 1800s as a textile mill. In 1969, a system to remove oil and dirt from newly woven fabric was installed. The system used trichloroethylene (TCE), most known for its use in dry cleaning, which was later released from the Site. This release led to the Stamina Mills Site being listed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) as a Superfund Site. The former Mill Office Building is the focus of this fact sheet and is not related to the NPL site, except for its location.

In 1975, the mill closed. A fire destroyed the manufacturing complex in 1977, leaving it vacant and unused. The former Mill Office Building, which was connected to the complex via a bridge, was not impacted by the fire and currently remains as the only original mill building. The building is in a state of disrepair and has been deemed unsafe to enter. The building is known to have asbestos containing material (ACM). Part of the roof has collapsed into the structure, allowing for the release of ACM into the environment.

### PREVIOUS ACTIONS AND EPA'S INVOLVEMENT

Based on TCE groundwater contamination, EPA added the Site to the Superfund National Priorities List in 1982 and in addition to long-term cleanup efforts, conducted short-term removal actions in 1984 and 1990. Most recently, in 2019, the Town of North Smithfield hired a contractor who determined that there is asbestos contamination in the former Mill Office Building. On July 30, 2020, EPA conducted an environmental investigation collecting eight samples of building materials from the

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former Mill Office Building. Based on the results, EPA determined that friable asbestos and asbestos containing materials (ACM) from the former Mill Office Building pose a threat to human health and the environment.

### **NEXT STEPS/WHAT TO EXPECT**

To address the continued release of asbestos into the environment, EPA will demolish the former Mill Office Building. The clean-up actions will include: removing trees, vegetation and debris that restrict access to the building; conducting air monitoring, as necessary; razing the building; transporting and disposing of ACM building debris at an EPA-approved off-site disposal facility, and backfilling any excavated areas. Additionally, measures will be taken to control dust and to prevent runoff of decontamination water from impacting nearby residential and commercial properties and the nearby Branch River.

Starting in early November 2020, as cleanup work begins, residents should expect to see personnel and heavy equipment working on or around the Site. Normal working hours will be between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Contractors on the Site will be dressed in Personal Protection Equipment, including white safety suits and face masks, because of their direct contact with the contaminated materials. It is expected to take approximately two months to complete. EPA will consult with the Town in selecting the safest route for disposal trucks entering and leaving the Site.