

U.S. EPA Prepares for Cleanup in January

Pillsbury Mills LLC Removal Site
Springfield, Illinois

January 2017

Open house

You are invited to attend an open house to meet one-on-one with U.S. EPA and state of Illinois staff to learn more about the project.

Date: Jan. 24, 2017

Time: 1-4 p.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Place: Lincoln Library, 1300 N. 11th St., Springfield.

For special needs or accommodations, contact Susan Pastor (see below).

For more information...

Susan Pastor

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Kevin Turner

On-Scene Coordinator
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On the web:

www.epa.gov/il/pillsbury-mills-llc-removal-site

Documents

Site-related documents may also be viewed at the Lincoln Library.



The Pillsbury Mills facility as it looks today.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing in mid-January to clean up a former food processing facility contaminated with asbestos waste. The facility, located at 1525 E. Phillips St., is called the Pillsbury Mills LLC Removal site by U.S. EPA. The Agency will use its authority under federal law to manage contamination that poses an imminent health threat. The former facility is contaminated with asbestos that was exposed during the demolition of buildings and scrapping of metal pipes.

The former Pillsbury mill sits on about 18 acres of land. At one point, it consisted of 26 structures including warehouses, office buildings, grain-mixing buildings, and grain storage silos. It is located in a residential and light industrial area next to rail lines. Vacant for about 10 years, Pillsbury Mills is surrounded by a fence. However, there is evidence of trespassing. The cleanup is needed to remove the asbestos-contaminated material and other hazardous substances on the property. U.S. EPA will remove and properly dispose of all contaminated waste.


While these activities are taking place, U.S. EPA will take measures to keep any asbestos-contaminated dust from blowing off-site. The air will be monitored to ensure the asbestos is under control. Security will also be provided around the clock to prevent trespassing. The cleanup is expected to take about five months.

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Background

Illinois EPA referred Pillsbury Mills to U.S. EPA for an assessment and possible cleanup in March 2016. Prior to that, Illinois EPA referred the matter to the Illinois Attorney General's Office. That office filed a complaint against the owner and others for asbestos-related violations. The owner/operator was required to secure the site and hire an asbestos professional to design a cleanup plan. Although steps were taken, including the removal of a small amount of asbestos-containing material outside the fence line, an acceptable cleanup plan was never submitted and a cleanup was never started.

Meanwhile, Illinois EPA and the city of Springfield continue to monitor the site for improper activities and are trying to compel the owner to provide better security.

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