

COS COB POWER STATION

GREENWICH

BACKGROUND

The Cos Cob Power Plant site is located in Greenwich, Connecticut on Sound Shore Drive. The facility operated from 1907 to 1986 as a power plant dedicated to providing electricity to the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Thermal insulating materials containing asbestos, used to retain heat, were applied to boilers, piping, generators, tanks and cables. Fire-resistant construction materials containing asbestos were also used throughout the building. The facility was permanently closed in September of 1986. The approximately 12 acre site includes the main building where power generation occurred, and a number of smaller buildings. The nearest residential area is located approximately 400 feet north of the site. The Cos Cob Train Station and parking lots are located across the train tracks to the northwest.



A recent site visit by state and federal officials found that the building has significant structural damage, including failed roofs and walls, and broken windows. Large quantities of asbestos containing materials were found throughout the site.

HOW CAN NEARBY RESIDENTS AND OTHERS BE EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS?

Current conditions at this site pose a public health threat. Asbestos-containing materials in a condition that could release asbestos fibers into the air are present throughout the main building. This material could be released to the outside air because of failed roofs and walls, and broken windows. In addition, a variety of building materials containing asbestos are on the exterior of the main building and are in various states of deterioration.

The most significant exposure would likely result in the event of a storm, fire or building collapse which would result in a major release of asbestos. This could result in exposures and environmental contamination. *This presents an urgent public health hazard.*

In addition, residents living close to the facility could be exposed periodically to low levels of asbestos fibers when wind and weather conditions carry asbestos from the site. Trespassers have and will continue to be exposed to asbestos if they enter the main building or go on the site.

Other hazards may be present at this site. Other chemical wastes associated with power generation and associated equipment may be present on site or may have been disposed of on site. In addition, coal ash

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS?

Asbestos is a mineral made up of long, thin fibers that occur naturally in the environment. Asbestos fibers are very strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. Because of these properties, asbestos has been used in many products including insulation and brake pads. Asbestos is very stable in the environment – it does not evaporate into air, dissolve in water, or break down over time. Everyone can be exposed to asbestos from both natural sources and the break-down of manufactured products. Low levels of asbestos can be found in almost any air sample.

Government agencies have determined that asbestos is a known carcinogen (causes cancer). The most serious exposures have occurred in certain workplaces such as mines and shipyards. Breathing asbestos fibers can increase the risk of lung cancer and mesothelioma (cancer of the lining around the lungs and other organs). Smoking significantly increases the risk of developing asbestos-related disease. Health effects have been seen in those who have been exposed to a high level of asbestos over a long period of time.

WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE?

- ⇒ The asbestos-containing materials need to be removed in a safe, controlled manner.
- ⇒ Nearby residents should be informed about the risks associated with exposure to asbestos and trespassing on the site or in the buildings.
- ⇒ Access to the site should be further restricted.
- ⇒ Physical and other hazards need to be fully evaluated and addressed.

WHO CAN I CALL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

For Health Questions:

CT Department of Public Health **860-509-7742**
 Greenwich Health Department **203-622-7836**

For Questions About Clean-up:

Greenwich Dept of Public Works.....**203-622-7740**

MEETING FOR NEARBY RESIDENTS
RE: COS COB STATION
Monday, August 2
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Greenwich Town Hall