

Metropolis Towers Chrome Cleanup Plans to be Reviewed at July 17 Meeting

Tell Us What You Think

PUBLIC MEETING:
WHEN: Tuesday, July 17
TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall
Council Chambers
280 Grove Street
Jersey City

Attend a public meeting to learn about PPG's plans for the removal of chromium waste at Metropolis Towers.



More than 26,000 cubic yards of chromium-impacted soil and debris located several feet below ground will be removed from the Metropolis Towers complex.

Chrome Cleanup to Meet NJDEP Health, Safety Requirements

Comprehensive dust control, air monitoring to protect community health

A proven set of dust-control measures to limit airborne chromium coupled with continuous air monitoring to verify their effectiveness will be implemented at the Metropolis Towers cleanup site as part of a comprehensive program designed to protect community health.

Measures to control airborne contaminants during cleanup activity will include water misting of work areas, spraying surfaces with dust-suppression materials and restricting truck traffic to paved

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The Chromium Cleanup Partnership will share proposed cleanup plans for Metropolis Towers during a public meeting, Tuesday, July 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 280 Grove St.

Mike McCabe, the independent, court-appointed site administrator for PPG Industries' chromium cleanups, will lead the meeting. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts about the cleanup plans. No preregistration is required.

The Metropolis Towers' cleanup will remove chromium waste, which was used as construction fill at sites throughout Hudson County in the 1960s. Today the chromium at Metropolis Towers is located several feet below grade and mostly under hard surfaces such as asphalt and concrete, meaning the material poses no risk of exposure. More than 26,000 cubic yards of chromium-impacted soil and debris will need to be removed from the site during the cleanup, eliminating any future exposure potential.

To minimize disruption to Metropolis Towers residents, the cleanup will be conducted in three phases, enabling residents to access both buildings at all times. The specifics of the three phases will be outlined in detail at the July 17 meeting. One of the benefits of the phased approach is that as much as 80 percent of parking will be unaffected during the cleanup. Discussions are under way with building management to accommodate the balance on site or at nearby lots. PPG is also in discussions with building management to determine how the company will restore the property when the cleanup is complete.

The project, including preparatory and post-cleanup restoration work, is scheduled to last approximately 15 months with the cleanup expected to begin in October and to include 10 months of excavation. Work will be conducted weekdays beginning at 8:30 a.m.

For the safety of Metropolis Towers residents throughout the cleanup, fencing will be installed

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About the Chromium Cleanup Partnership

The Chromium Cleanup Partnership was formed in 2009 as part of a court order in which the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Jersey City and PPG Industries embarked on a process to clean up PPG's 20 chromium sites in Hudson County.

As part of the agreement, the participants established a five-year goal for cleaning up all PPG sites. To help meet this objective, the Superior Court of New Jersey appointed Mike McCabe as the independent site administrator with oversight responsibilities.

As required by the agreement, the site administrator has worked with the participants to:

- Develop a judicially enforceable master schedule;
- Establish exposure prevention measures for cleanup activity;
- Inform the community of key activities; and
- Ensure cleanups are conducted according to detailed work plans that follow the State of New Jersey environmental standards. ■

NJDEP Health cont.

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areas. Furthermore, excavated chromium-impacted soil will be directly loaded onto trucks for transportation off site. PPG does not plan to stockpile impacted material on site. Finally, trucks will be washed and inspected before leaving the site, and wastewater will be contained, collected, treated and discharged to the local sewer in accordance with a permit from the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners.

Air samples will be collected and analyzed at monitoring stations throughout the work site to maintain safe conditions.

Because determining the amount of airborne hexavalent chromium, the key component of chromium waste, requires that the air samples be sent to an off-site, independent lab for analysis, PPG will continuously measure dust in the air as a real-time surrogate. Full-time air-monitoring technicians located on site while work is being conducted will monitor the dust readings to control site operations and implement additional dust-suppression measures as needed to protect the community.

Site activity and monitoring results will be continually checked by NJDEP and the independent Technical Consultant hired by the court-appointed site administrator. Data collected from air monitors on site will be available to view on the partnership's website: www.chromecleanup.com. ■

Chromium Cleanup Partnership

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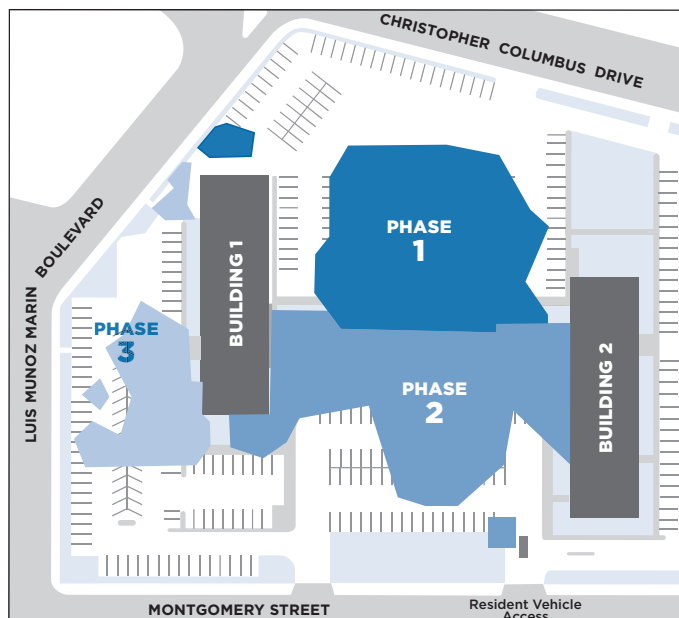
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Map above indicates location of chromium-impacted soil at Metropolis Towers, which is located mostly under hard surfaces such as concrete and asphalt. Excavation will be conducted in three phases to permit access to both buildings throughout the entire cleanup.

Facts and Figures

- Chromium waste was used as construction fill at sites throughout Hudson County in the 1960s.
- Today the chromium waste at Metropolis Towers is located several feet below grade and mostly under hard surfaces such as asphalt and concrete.
- In 2009, City Council conducted two hearings and ratified the court-sanctioned process for the cleanup of PPG Industries' 20 chromium sites, including Metropolis Towers. Residents from Metropolis Towers attended both hearings.
- A fence will separate the work area from residents and day-to-day building activity.
- More than 26,000 cubic yards of soil and debris will be removed.
- Maximum depth of excavation will be approximately 17 feet.
- Both buildings will remain in use throughout the cleanup.
- Work will be conducted weekdays beginning at 8:30 a.m. ■

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to separate the work zone from day-to-day building activity. As a result, resident and vehicular access will be modified. In addition, PPG will also conduct extensive dust-suppression activities and continuously monitor air quality to maintain safe conditions during the cleanup. (See related article.)

Preparatory work is scheduled to begin this month. Activities will include conducting engineering assessments of both buildings and locating underground utilities. Immediately following preparatory work, excavation will begin.

The proposed cleanup plan is under review by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which is expected to issue comments later this month. ■