

Demolition at Former Air Force Plant 59

Johnson City, New York



Irreparably damaged in the September 2011 flood, the former Air Force Plant (AFP) 59, operated by BAE Systems, is slated to be demolished. In coordination with the state of New York, the U.S. Air Force and their contractor CB&I Federal Services will begin the task of demolishing the building during the summer of 2015.

Before actual demolition can begin any and all hazardous materials in and around the building must be removed. This includes asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyl, lead, trichloroethylene, metals and petroleum products. Previous investigations have indicated the presence of these at various levels in and around the building.

Project mobilization will begin in July 2015. Underground utilities will be located and disconnected, work areas cordoned off, support facilities constructed, erosion controls and flood protection established. Additionally, prior to disturbing the soil a site survey will be conducted



AFP 59 during the September 2011 flood. (Courtesy Bill Walsh, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

ed to determine the volume of contaminated soil to be removed and the amount of clean fill needed to replace that soil. As each task is completed equipment no longer needed will be decontaminated

and removed from the site. Once mobilization is completed, decontamination of the building will start with the removal of PCBs, asbestos, metals, and other hazardous material. The phase of the project

What about the levee?

Given the close proximity of the former AFP 59 facility to the levee system it is understandable this would be a concern to local residents. Under the Air Force contract, the contractor is to be especially careful not to approach or damage the levee. All work is to be conducted away from the levee to ensue no accidental contact occurs. Additionally, the contractor will ensure the existing stormwater drainage system on the property is protected throughout the demolition and is in place and properly functioning at the end of the project.



Interior of former AFP 59 following the flood.

is expected to be completed by mid-October at which time actual demolition of the building will take place.

This demolition project is the culmination of a series of projects funded by the Air Force. This included an environmental assessment completed in 2013. As part of the environmental assessment, a public notice requesting review and input to the proposed demolition was completed in 2013. Another planning project was a pre-demolition building survey conducted in the summer of 2014. During the pre-demolition survey, a team of scientists collected hundreds of samples of building materials and soil beneath the building. This data is being used to ensure the building is dismantled and disposed of in the safest way possible. Prior to demolition of the building, the Air Force contractor will apply for and obtain multiple permits for demolition and asbestos abatement.

The US Army Corps of Engineers will be overseeing the project with on-site representatives.

The former AFP 59 facility consists of a concrete slab under the entire building with two basements. The structure is constructed of wood with brick and masonry walls. Several 300 class excavators like the one pictured at right will be used to demolish the building and the concrete slab. The excavator will reach into the structure to remove wood beams and columns allowing the structure to collapse into itself. This is a very control-

led process that only allows a small portion of the structure to be demolished while retaining to integrity of the remaining portions of the building. This ensures there will be no impact to Choconut Creek, adjacent wetlands, or neighboring businesses and residents. Demolition debris will be removed daily and not permitted to buildup onsite. The concrete floor of the building will be chipped away for removal. Debris is classified as recyclable metals, recyclable concrete and general demolition debris. Contaminated materials will be disposed of at an approved offsite location. Work hours are anticipated to be between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Dust from the demolition will be continuously wetted down by workers with hoses spraying a mist on the work in progress and the debris. Additional sprayers may also be set up to augment dust control. Water runoff from the misting will be monitored to prevent ponding. After the concrete floor and pad are removed removal of the underlying soil will take place.

After completion of the demolition, the site will be cleaned of all debris, removed soil will be replaced by clean fill, compacted and graded for proper drainage. Lastly the entire site will be seeded to establish a grass cover over a minimum of 90% of the disturbed area. Completion of the project is scheduled for July 2016.



300 class excavator

The Air Force recognizes this is a high profile project in the local community and there are likely to be questions and concerns about the demolition process as well as noise, traffic, dust, vibration, and potential impact to the environment. To address any of these questions or concerns, an Air Force representative can be contacted. Additionally a second fact sheet like this one will be issued to the public after the asbestos abatement but prior to the start of building demolition.

Demolition project documents may be viewed at the AFP 59 Administrative Record, located at Your Home Public Library, 107 Main Street, Johnson City, N.Y., 13790.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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