



Diocese of Scranton

Outline of Process for Demolition of Buildings

The Diocese of Scranton advocates the need to be vigilant when approaching demolition projects especially regarding the environmental requirements prior to starting any remediation. Especially important are the regulations pertaining to the process of demolishing a building as set forth by the Asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). In order to be consistent in our compliance of these regulations, the following is a brief outline of the process that this office employs and insists on when planning any demolition.

Prior to scheduling any demolition work, a building inspection must be conducted by a certified building inspector in order to identify any suspected asbestos containing materials. This inspection is also necessary in order to make determinations on the next step in the process and for providing information needed to complete the required demolition notification sent to the governing bodies. If no suspected material is found, then the notification can be submitted without impediment. If suspected material is found, testing of the suspected material must be conducted by the certified building inspector and, if found to be positive for asbestos, abated prior to any demolition. If abatement must be undertaken, a third party contractor must be engaged to conduct air monitoring/oversight while the material is removed by a certified abatement contractor. Proactively and on advisement, this office insists on the practice of abatement of any asbestos containing material found during an inspection prior to a demolition contrary to any exception found in the regulations

Once the aforementioned steps have been taken, notification of the demolition can be sent to the governing bodies and scheduling of the demolition can be set within the time frames of the notification. During the demolition, oversight by a third party is essential to ensure all air quality standards are followed and to make determinations in the event any additional suspected materials are uncovered during the demolition process.

I trust that the standard procedure employed by all Diocesan divisions for any projects involving the demolition of a building is to follow the regulations to their fullest extent. This office advocates going above and beyond the requirements of these regulations to ensure the interests of all parties involved are protected.

If you have any questions concerning the above or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 570-558-4310. As a courtesy, I ask that you inform this office of any projects that may include the need to demolish existing facilities so we can be aware of the project and the Risk Management Office can adjust our property inventory accordingly.

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning this matter.

Frank M. Semanski
Secretary for Property & Risk Management
Diocese of Scranton