

# A Successful HSCA Funded Cleanup: Porter Elementary School Asbestos Site

Porter Township, Clarion County, PA

*The Porter Elementary School Asbestos Site (Site) in Porter Township, Clarion County was a former elementary school that was in dilapidated condition and posed a threat of unrestricted asbestos containing material (ACM) to contaminate the environment and impact neighboring houses. The cleanup consisted of demolition of the building, abatement and removal of ACM, and removal and proper disposal of universal waste encountered during the demolition. Onsite work started on October 4, 2021, with demolition and Site restoration complete on November 24, 2021. The lead contractor for the Site was Baker O'Brien and Gere Joint Venture (Baker | OBG). Specialty subcontractors included Bristol Environmental, Inc. for asbestos abatement and McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc. for waste transport and disposal. The property was sold on December 20, 2021, at the Clarion County tax sale to a nearby private school with future plans to develop athletic fields at the Site.*

## Porter Elementary School Asbestos Site

The Site was a former elementary school that was built in the early 1900's and closed in 1988. The Site is comprised of a 5.5-acre property that included an approximate 13,000 square foot, partially demolished and fire damaged structure which contained ACM. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) became aware of the Site through a complaint submitted to the DEP in September 2017. Several inspections and repeated violations of the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for asbestos resulted in multiple enforcement actions against the property owner to manage unrestricted ACM that was present onsite. After the owner failed to comply with the enforcement actions, DEP was granted access to remove and dispose of ACM.

To address the threat of unrestricted ACM capable of migrating offsite, due to the deteriorated condition of the building, and further impacting adjacent neighbors and the environment, DEP acted to properly dispose of the contamination and demolish the dilapidated building. Baker | OBG was the lead contractor for the cleanup with specialty subcontractors Bristol Environmental, Inc. for asbestos abatement and McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc. for waste transport and disposal. Mobilization of equipment to the Site began on October 4, 2021, which consisted of two excavators, skid steer, front end loader, and bulldozer. The building consisted of a two-story structure of stone, wood, masonry, and steel support beams. The interior floors had partially or completely collapsed from a previous fire and general neglect, rendering the building unsafe for entry prior to demolition.

## Project at a Glance

**Name:**

Porter Elementary School  
Asbestos Site

**Location:**

Porter Township, Clarion County  
PA

**Project Size:**

Approximately 5.5 acres

**Principal Use:**

Rural residential, potential  
playing fields

**Total Project cost:**

\$500,000

**Consultant:**

Baker | OBG  
Bristol Environmental, Inc  
McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc

**Project Period:**

2021



Building components and debris were carefully segregated to separate any potential ACM and universal waste, to ensure proper disposal. Suitable concrete and masonry material were processed for beneficial reuse as fill material during site restoration. Throughout demolition, approximately 100 linear feet of friable asbestos pipe insulation was discovered at various locations under collapsed building components and abated. Friable ACM is easily crumbled or crushed into a powder. Wrap and cut, or glove bag removal methods were used for abatement of friable materials. About 5,000 square feet of non-friable tile mastic on the concrete slab was also abated. The non-friable floor tile mastic was abated using chemical solvents. ACM and ancillary wastes were properly bagged and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Additionally, a 50-pound lead acid battery and 215 pounds of lighting ballasts were disposed of separately from the rest of the construction waste.

Site restoration began after completion of the abatement and demolition. The building footprint was backfilled with suitable concrete and masonry material and then covered with soil derived onsite. Disturbed areas of the Site were graded to the natural slope of the land and to promote positive surface drainage. The area was then seeded and fertilized. The Site was demobilized of all equipment and personnel by November 24, 2021. On December 20, 2021, the Site was sold at the Clarion County tax sale to a nearby private school with plans to make athletic fields at the Site.

### Highlights:

- 336 tons of construction waste removed
- 100 linear feet of friable asbestos abated
- 5,000 square feet of non-friable asbestos tile mastic abated



*School building before demolition, August 2021.*



*Vegetation cleared, erosion and sedimentation control in place, fence installed, October 2021.*



*Bristol Environmental abating ACM on pipe insulation, October 2021.*

# Project Photos



*Demolition of the east side of building, October 2021.*



*Application of water spray to control dust, October 2021.*



*Building demolition process, November 2021.*



*Site is graded and ready for seed mix, November 2021.*

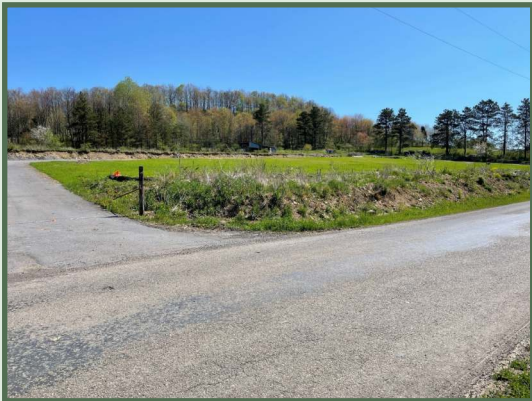
# Project Photos



*Grading in progress, November 2021.*



*Vegetation growing, site complete May 2022.*



*Vegetation growing, site complete May 2022.*

The Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (HSCF), a special fund established under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) (35 P.S. §6020.101 *et seq.*), provides the funding for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to carry out a number of activities to address releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances to the environment.

