

Norfolk Inmate Council  
Executive Board  
2 Clark Street / P.O. Box 43  
Norfolk MA 02056

May 10, 2025

RE: Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC)  
Asbestos Exposure

On December 1, 2024 a fire occurred at MCI-Norfolk, in the aftermath of this fire the Norfolk Fire Chief deemed the building condemned due to asbestos being present. All prisoners property was disposed of as being contaminated. Several prisoners were exposed to smoke from this fire.

The company that was hired was "Arcadis" for asbestos abatement on January 10, 2025.

This brings me to the major and far reaching concern which has exposed prisoners and staff to continued neglect and failures to abate asbestos throughout the facility for decades.

- It is the NIC's (Norfolk Inmate Council) understanding that through public records that Select Demo Services LLC, 40 Lowell Rd Bldg 2, Salem MA 02079 (tel: 603-386-0391) conducted abatement of this same building starting 2/22/2024. The area was on the first floor Building 1-1 cells 106,107 & Bldg 1-1, cells 105,106 requiring full containment. The asbestos project number was 100400914. This abatement was to removal of plastersheetrock, which is in almost all housing unit or where about 1000 prisoners reside. However this does not account for past prisoners who have lived in these units and are now in society and correctional staff who work in this environment many times for 16 hours a day.

Also another contractor listed for a separate Asbestos Abatement in the facility is New England Surface Maintenance LLP, 850 Washington Street, Weymouth ,A 02189 (tel: 781-337-2117) the monitor in this project was Universal Environmental Consulting Inc. This occurred in the Culinary Area of the prison. Asbestos Project# 100401426 (start date: 2/24/24). This was to remove surface coatings of pipe insulation.

New England Surface Maintenance LLP, conducted an abatement of asbestos on 12/09/2021, Asbestos Project #: 100357049. This was in the Medical Unit of the prison (2nd floor rec room CSU). This was removal of floor tiles "Vat/Mastic".

Select Demo Services LLC, Again on 9/25/2023 Asbestos Project#: 100393005 for the "Gate House" which is where everyone enter the facility removed ceiling tile glue.

I detail all these instance to show the knowledge of the DOC of asbestos within the facility and a lack of due diligence to provide for safe and healthy living and work conditions.

Some work that has been undertaken throughout the facility which has left debris in every housing unit. The following major projects:

- Installation of surveillance cameras in all housing units and general common areas.
- Installation of Wi-Fi (2 separate projects) (Keefe & Orijin, systems) in all housing units and general common areas.
- Installation of the Alertus hearing impaired warning system in cells and every area of the facility.

These projects involve drilling through plastersheetrock containing asbestos and fastening steel conduits for both projects. There were/are piles of dust on the floor which prisoners swept up and threw into the trash. In some of these instance the DOC surveillance cameras will show this work if obtained.

Regularly holes are made in the walls and plastersheetrock containing asbestos is drilled through with dust and debris left in prisoners cells.

Floor tiles as described in the CSU project still remain in some housing units and staff areas. Ceiling tiles as described in the "gatehouse" project still remain in some housing units and staff areas.

Regularly ceiling tiles containing what is believed to be the same are falling from the ceiling in the OPD (Out Patient Department) of the medical area. Prisoners daily stand to receive medication under these same tiles. Work has also been conducted around these tiles disturbing them and creating dust in a medical area (exam rooms, treatment rooms, medication distribution and storage area).

Also there is a building (old steam plant) within prison walls which has been condemned for asbestos years ago and is not abated due to cost from my knowledge of removing the entire building. This remains open to elements and possibly contaminating surrounding buildings or people passing by.

Also there is a black mold issue which continues to remain in multiple housing units and was abated from the probation units about 22+ years ago.

MCI-Norfolk have experienced an abnormal amount of cancer and fast moving cancers when doctors at medical centers have commented, "Why I am seeing all this cancer out of MCI-Norfolk". I would be able to obtain additional information and details with more time and public records.

On December 17, 2024 the prisoners from the exposure of Unit 1-1 fire were offered a settlement for their property and "This would release the department (DOC) of everything."

With this limited information I am asking for whatever guidance or assistance you can provide. Several prisoners have developed breathing problems over the years some lung cancer, many thyroid cancers, etc. There seems to be a cluster and I hope that you would be able to assist and provide steps moving forward. I believe the health implications of the DOC fall within deliberate indifference and records will provide proof.

I still remain on the Norfolk Inmate Council (NIC) in an elected position to represent the population for the past 8+ years and can provide whatever information I can.

Please contact me in whatever manner you feel appropriate: mail, Corrlinks.com, visit or Zoom.

I hope to hear from you soon and any assistance you can offer will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Walter J. Darden".

cc: Norfolk Inmate Council  
file