



**Former Crawford Power Generating Station, 3501 S. Pulaski  
Turbine Structure Demolition  
May 18, 2020**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

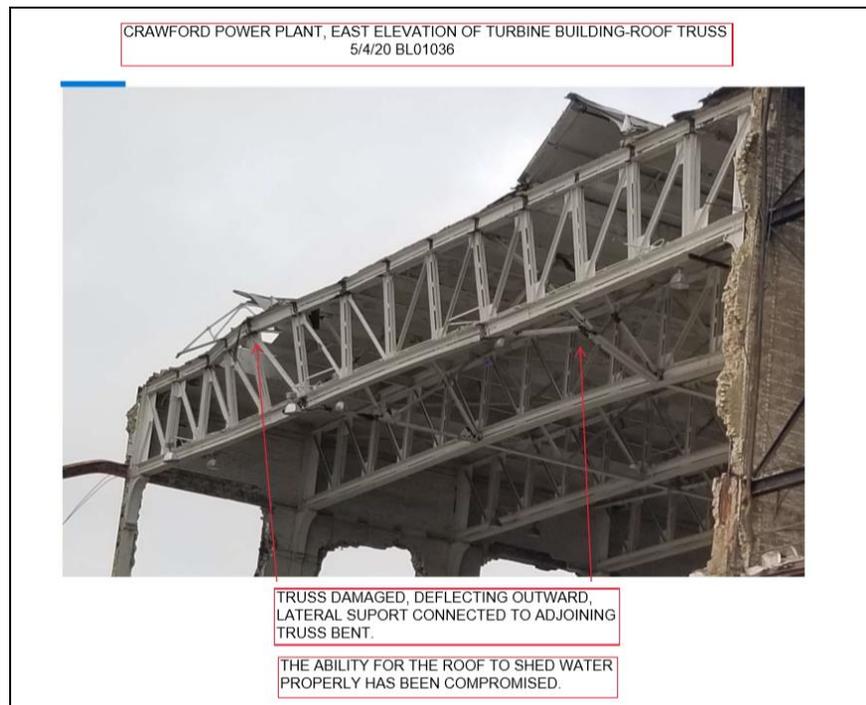
**Why is the turbine structure imminently dangerous and hazardous?**

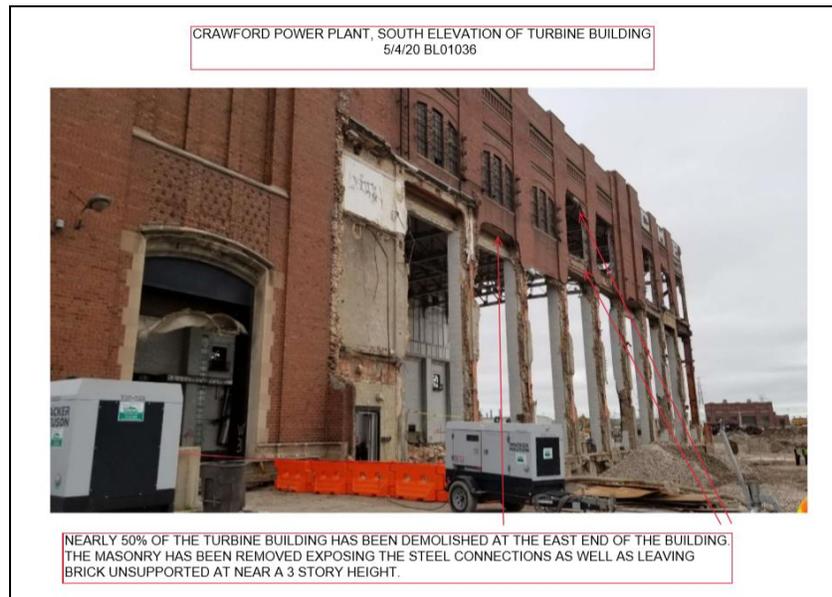
Following the halt of demolition work at the site of the former Crawford Power Generating Station, the existing turbine building was left half-demolished and exposed to the weather elements, including wind and rain, which rendered an already unsafe building an immediate threat to public health and safety.

Per a thorough review and structural analysis, the building is dangerous for the following reasons:

- Steel columns are now exposed and unbraced in both dimensions.
- The adjacent building structure that originally provided lateral support to the steel columns has been removed.
- Large areas of exterior brick are currently unsupported and remain in place solely due to mortar adhesion, and the brick could collapse due to its own weight and wind pressure.
- Structural steel roof trusses are damaged. Deformation of trusses and cross bracing could get worse.
- The exposed steel makes the site an attractive nuisance to scappers who regularly trespass to scavenge the site.

Pictures illustrating the described conditions are included below:





**Why did the Department of Buildings (DOB) determine it was urgent to move forward on the demolition of the turbine structure?**

Protecting the public health and safety of residents in all communities remains the City's top priority, and DOB carries out this mission through the enforcement of the Chicago Building Code. DOB has been monitoring the deteriorating site daily since the implosion and has been extremely concerned about the state of the remaining buildings. Since the developer replaced the previous demolition contractor responsible for the failed smokestack implosion and the dust mitigation plan was revised and approved by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), there was no basis to prohibit the developer from moving forward to abate a very dangerous and hazardous situation.

**Who will complete the demolition?**

Heneghan Wrecking is leading the demolition effort, replacing the previous contractor responsible for the problematic implosion, MCM Management, who was stripped of its onsite permits by DOB.

**What will the City do to ensure the demolition is completed in a careful manner and there is proper dust mitigation?**

The contractor, Heneghan Wrecking, has submitted a [dust mitigation plan](#) for the removal work, which has undergone a thorough review by the IEPA and CDPH. City inspectors and a third-party environmental consultant have been onsite every day since April 11, 2020, and will remain onsite to monitor the demolition activity and provide status updates to the community on this portion of the demolition.

**How large is the building?**

The turbine hall is a three-story structure with a steel system wrapped in brick and mortar. Currently, the structure is 50% demolished, and the remaining 50% is structurally unsound.



**How close is the turbine structure to the neighboring residential housing and Pulaski Rd.?**

The turbine structure is approximately 1.5 miles away from the nearest residential housing and 40-50 feet from Pulaski Rd.

**Is there anything pending with the Department of Buildings that would prevent the removal of the turbine structure from moving forward?**

No. Construction has been deemed an essential service by the Governor’s ‘State at Home’ Executive Order and the new contractor, Heneghan Wrecking, holds the proper permit for the demolition of the turbine structure. Heneghan Wrecking has also submitted a [dust mitigation plan](#) for the removal work, which has undergone a thorough review by the IEPA and the CDPH. DOB inspectors have been onsite to monitor any activity since April 11, 2020 and will remain onsite to mitigate any concerns during the removal of the turbine structure.

**How long will the demolition take?**

Though the contractor is in control of the project schedule and subsequent timeline, and construction can be affected by a number of factors including weather and staffing issues, we project the demolition will take approximately one or two days, weather permitting..

**Can you describe the demolition method?**

The turbine structure will be removed by mechanical demolition, which involves specialized equipment and tools. In this instance, to minimize the amount of dust, the contractor is utilizing a hydraulic excavator equipped with a specialized attachment that the operator uses to gently tap the bricks to peel them away from around the steel columns.

During this operation, there will be three misting cannons, most effective for controlling dust during mechanical operation, strategically placed to produce a fine mist in the air that captures the dust. Each misting cannon is located in proximity of the area where the bricks are falling and is set to discharge 26 gallons of water per minute. In addition, there will be water cannon that sprays 750 gallons of water a minute to saturate the ground where the bricks fall during removal.

**What air quality monitoring will be done during the demolition?**

CDPH and IEPA will continue to sample and monitor air quality daily during the demolition and immediately address changes in air quality. [CDPH has 7 monitors in the area](#) that are checked each day, and IEPA has additional air monitors across the city.

**Why is the City of Chicago closing two lanes of Pulaski Rd. adjacent to the site?**

Effective Wednesday May 20, the City of Chicago will close two lanes of Pulaski Rd. at 35th Place following the morning rush. The lanes will be closed out of an abundance of caution, due to the close proximity to the turbine structure to Pulaski Rd. The road closure will stay in place until demolition at the site is complete.

Under the new configuration, traffic is being shifted to the west side of the roadway and there will be one lane open in each direction. To avoid delays, CDOT advises drives to use alternate routes, such Cicero Avenue to the west or Kedzie Avenue to the east. As part of this closure, the northbound CTA bus stop on Pulaski at 36th (STOP ID 12945, Route 53A) will also be temporarily out of service. As an alternative, commuters are encouraged to use the bus stop at 3400 South Pulaski at the intersection of Pulaski and Cougar Street.