

KIOWA TRIBES 197 ACRE CEREMONIAL GROUND PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions – Kiowa Tribe Community Informational Meeting
March 17, 2026



Disclaimer: This document was produced by Cooper Zietz Engineers Inc DBA Akana, a partner of the Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields (Tribal TAB) Program at Kansas State University (KSU), to conduct technical assistance and facilitation for the Kiowa Tribe Indian City Brownfields Project in Anadarko, OK. Tribal TAB is an EPA-funded program. No warranties are made, express or implied.

GENERAL SITE & HISTORY

Q: What is the Indian City / 197-acre Ceremonial Grounds site?

A: The site is Tribal Trust land about 2 miles southeast of Anadarko on Highway 8. It was a former Tribal cultural attraction with a museum, gift shop, and campground buildings. The public attraction closed in 2005, and the museum ceased operations around 2009.

Q: What historic uses contributed to contamination?

A: Past building materials (floor tile, mastic, drywall, ceiling texture, etc.) contained asbestos, which is common in mid-century construction. Over time, deterioration made the materials unsafe. No industrial or chemical contamination was found—only asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM).

Q: Why is asbestos a concern?

A: Asbestos is hazardous when fibers become airborne and are inhaled. It is linked to lung cancer, mesothelioma, and other respiratory disease risks.

Q: Why can't the buildings just be renovated?

A: Both buildings were classified as Dangerous Buildings by the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal and are unsafe to occupy. The deteriorated condition also makes traditional asbestos abatement unsafe for workers.

ASSESSMENTS & FINDINGS

Q: What environmental assessments were completed?

A: Environmental Assessments:

- Phase I ESA – reviewed site history
- Phase II ESA – confirmed asbestos in both buildings
- Asbestos Sampling Report (2023)
- ABCA – Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (2026)
- CIP – Community Involvement Plan (2025)

All documents are publicly available for review per the CIP administrative record process.

Q: Did the assessments find any soil or water contamination?

A: No. Detected contamination is limited to building materials. Asbestos release to the environment is unlikely, because the structures were sealed enough to contain materials inside.

CLEANUP & PROCESS

Q: What cleanup alternatives were considered?

A: The ABCA evaluated:

- No Action – not protective; not selected.
- Asbestos Abatement Only – workers would need to enter unsafe buildings.
- Wet Demolition – safest method given building conditions (preferred).

Q: What is a wet demolition?

A: Wet demolition is demolishing the buildings with the asbestos in place. Water is continuously sprayed during demolition to keep asbestos fibers from becoming airborne. All debris and water runoff are controlled, captured, and disposed of at approved facilities. Air and soil samples must meet federal clearance standards after demolition.

Q: Why was wet demolition chosen?

A: Wet demolition was chosen for the following reasons:

- Buildings are structurally unsafe for workers to enter
- Minimizes risk to workers and public
- Provides long-term protection by removing all contaminated structures
- Supported by EPA/DEQ under Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) rules

TIMELINE & PUBLIC PROCESS

Q: What is the project timeline?

A: Project timeline:

- ABCA Public Notice → 30-day comment period (required)
- Community Meetings (like this one) are part of EPA's public-involvement requirement
- Cleanup expected after completion of administrative, QAPP, and contractor steps (as shown in the full project timeline included in ABCA attachments)

Q: Where can the public review documents?

A: The public can review documents at the following places:

- Physical repository: Kiowa Tribe Complex, Records Management Room, 100 Kiowa Way Carnegie, OK

- Digital repository: <https://www.kiowatribe.org/department/naturalresource-department>

Q: How long will documents be available?

A: The full project record remains accessible for 3 years after the Public Notice publication date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & PARTICIPATION

Q: Who is managing the project for the Kiowa Tribe?

A: Kiowa Tribe Project Manager:

- Terrance Paukei, Kiowa Tribe PM
Email: tpaukei@kiowatribe.org

Q: How can community members submit comments?

A: Comments must be in writing and sent to:

For the Kiowa Tribe:

- Ashley Joslyn, Media and Communications Coordinator
Email: ajoslyn@kiowatribe.org

For the DEQ:

- Kasie Stambaugh
Email: Kasie.Stambaugh@deq.ok.gov

Non-English comments will be forwarded to the Alternative Language Point of Contact (Marland Toyekoyah) Email: mtoyekoyah@kiowatribe.org.

Q: How quickly will the Tribe respond to comments?

A: Tribe will respond to comments within the following times:

- Response within 5 business days
- Posted to the administrative record within 10 business days.

SAFETY & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Q: Will demolition release asbestos into the air?

A: No. Wet-demolition is designed specifically to prevent airborne fiber release. Dust suppression, containment, air monitoring, and post-activity clearance testing are required by law (EPA, DEQ, OSHA).

Q: What regulations govern asbestos abatement?

A: Regulations that govern asbestos abatement are as follows:

- DEQ-hired Industrial Hygienist (air monitoring, QAPP, clearance)
- EPA National Emission Standards for Hazardous Pollutants (NESHAP reporting)
- OSHA worker protection standards
- ODOL (licensing for workers, as applicable)

Q: How will DEQ ensure these regulations are being enforced?

A: The DEQ will ensure these regulations are being enforced through:

- DEQ-hired Industrial Hygienist (air monitoring, quality assurance project plan, post-demolition clearance sampling)

Q: Will ceremonies or sacred areas be affected?

A: The west side of the property used for ceremonial purposes will not be disturbed by demolition activities per project description in the Community Involvement Plan (CIP).

FUNDING & PURPOSE

Q: What is the source for the cleanup funding?

A: The project is funded through the EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Supplemental funding is provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. DEQ is the grantee; Kiowa Tribe is the subrecipient.

Q: Why is this cleanup important?

A: This cleanup is important for the following reasons:

- Protects community and worker health
- Removes dangerous, unusable buildings
- Allows Tribal leadership and community to begin a visioning process for culturally-aligned reuse
- Fulfills EPA public-engagement requirements
- Positions the site for future Tribal development and cultural programming

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNITY

Q: Is this related to current political/leadership issues?

A: No. This cleanup is an environmental health project funded and overseen by DEQ and EPA. It is independent of Kiowa leadership matters and is focused solely on healing the land and preparing it for safe future use.

Q: What will happen to the site after demolition?

A: Community input will guide future visioning. A visioning workshop (Phase 2) will gather ideas for cultural, educational, ecological, or community uses. This workshop has not yet been scheduled and is planned to occur later in 2026.

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