

As “Friends of the Curtis paper mill and Mill building admirers” we respectfully submit these comments:

Mary Ciuk/Adams resident

Leni Fried /Co-Owner of The Old Stone Mill Center in Adams

Mike Augspurger /Co-Owner of The Old Stone Mill Center in Adams

Caroline Scully/Adams resident

On Jan 21, 2026, we attended the Notice of Intent Public Meeting about the Town of Adams application for an EPA brownfields cleanup grant for the former Curtis Paper mill complex at the Adams Select Board Meeting. Weston & Sampson presented a Draft Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABC) regarding the cleanup alternatives.

The ABCA recommends Alternative #3 which includes compete demolition buildings 1, 2, 3, and 4, leaving only building 5.

We ask that the town pause at this juncture and consider a path of minimal demolition.

The report states that even if buildings could be saved, they would need to be shored up to decontaminate the soil below the building footprint.

Given that these buildings rest on concrete slabs we ask that the town reconsider the assumption that the soil below is contaminated.

The report is not definitive in this regard only stating that..."potentially impacted soils beneath the building footprint that MAY require remediation."

The report specifies that Buildings 1, 5 and a portion of building 4 are viable to repair. We hope this can be achieved.

Advantages of this approach:

1. By not disturbing the soil under the building footprint there is less dust and exposure to the neighborhood.

2. It is a potentially a less expensive option to repair the existing buildings instead of building new ones.

3. Unique and special features of the site:

There are huge, tiled vats that were used in papermaking for the paper pulp. These are in good condition and should be preserved. The brick rooms in the basement are also amazing.

Building 4 is large and long. The sheer size and length of building 4 seems to scream "find a way to reuse me." The town is desperately in need of indoor recreation options. Could this building be a solution?

5. Timeline: If the town goes for Alternative # 3, complete demolition of all but building 5, this could take up to three years and also involve another grant application. The time frame could be quite lengthy.

6. Best case scenario: Once contaminants that are indoors and the demolished roof timbers and other roof materials are removed it could be possible that potential buyer(s) would be interested in developing the site.

7. As owners of The Old Stone Mill and Adams residents, we are interested in saving as much of the buildings as possible and have ideas as to how the site could be used.

We would welcome a chance to present our ideas. Thank you.