

# **Mercury in Demolition and Renovation: The Decommissioning of a 1920s era Chemistry Building**

## **Presenter(s)**

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## **Abstract Text**

Billions of dollars are being spent to renovate and rejuvenate college and university campuses nationwide. Mercury contamination has the potential to become a leading issue during this boon. OSHA regulations regarding hazardous decontamination prior to demolition complicate the feasibility of some of these projects. What lessons have we learned from the use of the Ohio Lumex mercury vapor analyzer, and how do they apply to the demolition of Venable Hall at UNC Chapel Hill?

This presentation will discuss the decommissioning and demolition of Venable Hall. This will include the process beginning with initial design concerns, through specification development, the bid process, and into the actual decommissioning. An important driver throughout this process was our implementation of a slightly modified version of new protocols developed and used by NIH. Additionally incorporated in this presentation will be what we found during initial hazmat pre-screening, and how those findings differed or agreed with actual results generated during decommissioning. The findings covered will include, in addition to mercury, asbestos, lead, universal waste, and chemicals for disposal.

## **Presenter Bio(s)**

Michael Long is a Safety Officer in the Environmental Affairs Section in the Environment, Health, and Safety Department at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has over 10 years of experience in the EHS arena, primarily in Hazardous Waste Management. He is currently responsible for providing oversight of the disposal phases of laboratory and non-laboratory relocation, renovation, demolition, and re-occupancy.