

# **NEWSDAY**

## **Indiana firm wins Kings Park demo contract**

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An Indiana company that has won a \$6.4 million state contract to tear down buildings at the former Kings Park psychiatric hospital has agreed to hire dozens of local workers, state officials said Friday.

About 65 jobs will be created by the effort to demolish 15 vacant buildings and other structures at the abandoned 500-acre hospital site, the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation said in a news release.

In addition, National Salvage & Service Corporation, of Bloomington, Ind., will subcontract 20 percent of the work to businesses owned by minorities and women, including five companies from Long Island, Brooklyn and the Bronx, parks officials said.

The demolition will create jobs for local subcontractors in trucking, removal of hazardous material, security, asphalt, concrete restoration work, rodent control and surveying, the news release said.

Among the buildings to be torn down are maintenance and power facilities, a boathouse, a dairy barn and the morgue. Demolition is expected to begin in May and should be finished by November 2013, state officials have said.

"This is great news for the Kings Park community and for all Long Islanders," state Sen. John Flanagan (R-East Northport) said in a statement released by the parks office. "I am also eager to work with the parks administration and the contractor to make sure that the community's way of life is protected during this upcoming process and that every attempt to hire workers from the immediate area will be made."

National Salvage's \$6.4 million bid was far below the \$15 million allocated by the state for demolition work. The salvage firm beat 19 other companies that submitted bids to raze the structures.

The hospital closed in 1996. About one-third of the site is Nissequogue River State Park.

Four of the buildings scheduled for demolition are within the park, and the other 11 buildings are on the remainder of the former hospital property, which is controlled by the state parks office.

State parks officials have said demolition crews will use protective netting to prevent the release of demolition dust and electronic sensors to monitor air quality.

"I'm pleased that this spring will bring visible improvements in the safety and security risks at the Kings Park Psychiatric Center site," Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey said in a statement. "Once we get this important first step under way, state parks looks forward to continuing to work with our partners on the state level and in the community to further revitalize the site."