Lead paint removal operations are conducted in a Class 1A containment unit. We use rigid containment walls, HEPA filters, and negative air pressure to prevent material release. Ambient air quality readings are conducted during lead paint abatement work. As per the EPA, airborne lead levels are continuously monitored using high-volume total suspended particulate samplers (shown below) at multiple locations in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Additional indepth testing for Volatile Organic Compounds were conducted at five locations in the summer of 2011.

In March 2012, airborne particulate samples were collected in accordance with regulatory guidelines, at locations where dust is most likely to be deposited during dust-generating activities. Additional tests were replicated in June 2012 for respirable silica, suspended particulates and asbestos.

All results are acceptable according to standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the American Conference of Industrial Hygienists.
The Alternative Noise Mitigation Plan

The 2007 Noise Code administered by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prescribes how construction noise is governed: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/noise/index.shtml. All construction projects must have a Construction Noise Mitigation Plan. The Brooklyn Bridge Rehabilitation work occurs overnight, and thus requires an Alternative Noise Mitigation Plan (ANMP). An ANMP applies whenever strict compliance would result in unreasonable delay and/or increased expenditure for a necessary public improvement, and the alternative noise mitigation strategies, methods, procedures or equipment proposed are consistent with the purposes and policies of the NYC Noise Code (Section 24-221).

Noise Mitigation at the Source
Noise mitigation on the equipment itself includes:
- solar-powered generators
- custom-made sound enclosures around stationary equipment
- using smaller jackhammers with mufflers around the motor.

Noise Mitigation along the Sound Pathway
Noise absorption along the sound pathway includes:
- hanging sound blankets on fences
- enclosing the work area on four sides
- using the highest fences possible for the specific work site.

Noise Monitoring

Environmental air and noise monitoring is conducted by an independent, third-party contractor. Inspectors work closely with the community liaison to identify, target and prioritize operations for in-depth inspection.

Inspectors are on the job site during every work shift, day and night, taking noise measurements from a number of sites (shown left). They also confirm that appropriate noise mitigation measures are in place.

Noise Mitigation and Process Modification

DOT works closely with the contractor, other city agencies, and the community liaison to implement the measures required in the approved Alternative Noise Mitigation Plan. These measures can be grouped into three categories:

Modifications to the Process
Construction processes are altered to reduce noise, including:
- storing machinery on the bridge to minimize motion
- shifting excavation activities to the daytime
- adding additional work crews
- working longer daytime hours on the weekends.