UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

SEP 30 2008 OSWER Directive 9200.0-68

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of *Framework for Investigating Asbestos-Contaminated Superfund Sites*

FROM: James Woolford, Director
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

TO: Superfund National Program Managers, Regions 1-10

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit the document: *Framework for Investigating Asbestos-Contaminated Superfund Sites* (Framework). The Framework provides guidance for assessing sites contaminated with asbestos that are being addressed under the authority of Superfund. This guidance recommends a general process for site assessment that is supplemental to existing Superfund site and risk assessment guidance.

Background

This Framework was developed to provide remedial/removal managers, remedial project managers, on scene coordinators, and site assessors with information needed to assist in the evaluation of asbestos risks at hazardous waste sites. Historically, asbestos has been addressed in the Superfund program by reference to the term asbestos-containing material (ACM), defined in the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), 40 CFR Part 61, as materials containing >1% asbestos. OSWER Directive 9345.4-05 (Clarifying Cleanup Goals and Identification of New Assessment Tools for Evaluating Asbestos at Superfund Cleanups, EPA, August 2004) indicated that the 1% definition may not be reliable for assessing potential human health hazards from asbestos-contaminated soils at Superfund sites. This Framework implements the August

2004 Directive by recommending a risk-based, site-specific approach for site evaluation based on current asbestos science.

Implementation

The TRW Asbestos Committee recognizes that asbestos site assessment can be very challenging in the absence of a risk-based soil value. OSRTI also recognizes that asbestos risk assessment is an area of active research. The Framework is designed with the necessary flexibility to facilitate site decisions under conditions of incomplete characterization and to accommodate the varied nature of environmental asbestos contamination and emerging risk science for asbestos. While the Framework provides guidance for site assessment, data gaps remain in the areas of analytical methods and toxicity of asbestos. These are needs that go well beyond the scope of developing the Framework; EPA will address these needs through ongoing research and development of additional implementation tools and guidance.

The TRW Asbestos Committee is available to respond and provide support to the Regions and other stakeholders in the use of the Framework. A technical support help line is available (via phone or e-mail asbestoshelp@epa.gov) or a member of the Asbestos Committee may be contacted directly (members are listed below). Upon release of the additional guidance or implementation tools, the OSRTI/Asbestos web page will be updated to highlight the support mechanisms.

Attachment

cc:

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