

ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

RL No.: 12-0099

Issued:

To: ALL HANFORD EMPLOYEES

Subject: UPDATE ON ASBESTOS SAMPLING, ACTIONS, AND PROGRAMS

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other Hanford organizations are continuing to address concerns about asbestos and a Stop Work related to asbestos issued on January 12, 2012.

We appreciate employees raising concerns about asbestos over the past several months. Those concerns prompted us to take a closer look at both former demolition sites as well as existing facilities, including steam lines that have Potential Asbestos Containing Material (PACM). A team made up of DOE, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) Safety Representatives, contractors, and concerned employees have been working on several corrective actions, and most of those actions have been completed.

Those actions, including the results of sampling done to determine whether or not conditions existed for exposure to asbestos, are summarized in a report produced at the request of DOE. The report has been posted on the Hanford Site employee asbestos information web page: www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/EmployeeAsbestosInformation.

The report concludes:

The data reviewed for this evaluation, in which personal samples, area/perimeter samples and additional post demolition/clean-up samples were evaluated, indicates there is little in the way of occupational asbestos exposure risk to the workers on the site due to the activities associated with demolition of facilities.

While the sampling analysis shows conditions during and after demolition activities did not exist for exposure to asbestos above the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL), this does not mean that concerns about exposure to asbestos are unfounded. We all have a right to raise concerns and to have those concerns addressed.

For those who have concerns about exposure to asbestos while working at Hanford, we have produced a fact sheet that summarizes existing programs and processes that are in place to assist with medical screening and compensation in the event of an asbestos-related illness. The fact sheet is attached and is also available on the asbestos information web page.

Your feedback is helping maintain a safe work environment for all employees and is contributing to a continuous improvement in safety. The fact sheet includes a link to a new document that was produced as a result of the concerns raised. If you later file a claim for an asbestos-related workplace injury or illness under the Hanford Site Workers' Compensation program or under the Department of Labor's EEOICPA program, this document, which includes information regarding potential asbestos exposure, will be provided along with your other industrial hygiene records to your claims handler to aid in making informed decisions on your claim.

Since not everyone has daily access to email, please share this message with your fellow employees. DOE will continue to keep you informed, and we appreciate your support and input as we move forward.

If you have questions or concerns about asbestos or other issues, contact your manager, a HAMTC/HGU Safety Representative or your company's safety hotline. More information is available on the Hanford Site employee asbestos information web page.

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Attachment