

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
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**To:** ALL HANFORD EMPLOYEES

**Subject:** BULLETIN ON ASBESTOS CONCERNS

Recently, many employees have expressed concerns related to asbestos, asking that certain Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) sites and existing facilities/steam lines in the Central Plateau be inspected for Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material (RACM), any asbestos material identified be contained and/or cleaned up, and any adverse health effects be determined.

We thank those employees for raising these concerns. Raising concerns and acting on those concerns is essential to a strong safety culture. We are sending this message to Hanford Site employees to share the information we know at this point in time and to describe actions we are taking to address the concerns.

First, we are looking into the concerns and gathering information.

- DOE and contractor senior management, safety personnel, and Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) Safety Representatives have walked down the sites with some of the employees who raised questions and discussed their concerns.
- Additional teams were sent out to sites where buildings that contained asbestos were demolished. Those teams evaluated the condition of the soil cover that had been installed over some of the areas where the D&D work was done. They looked for any asbestos materials on the surface and evaluated the need for site controls. They also evaluated other potential sources of asbestos, including steam lines and existing buildings that have siding or roofing containing asbestos.

A team of industrial hygienists from CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC) and Mission Support Alliance (MSA), along with asbestos experts from across the Hanford Site reviewed monitoring data from hundreds of samples taken during demolition activities (both personnel and area monitoring). The team verified that monitoring and sample analyses were performed in accordance with approved analytical methods. **All samples were below the OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL), which is set to protect workers' health.** Additional sampling will be conducted to ensure there are no harmful levels of asbestos currently at these sites and adjacent facilities of concern.

We are taking these actions:

- Barriers are being placed around D&D sites identified in the walk downs to restrict access to the sites.
- Fragments of material suspected to contain asbestos in and around the areas of concern will be cleaned up.
- Concrete slabs that contain asbestos will be removed, or a protective cover constructed of gravel or a protective liner will be installed over the slabs.
- Soil cover will be added to the 200 East power house D&D site, similar to what was done for the 200 West power house.
- Relocate a CHPRC “lay down” area in the old “Industrial 7” sites in the 200 West Area, including washing equipment.
- A manhole cover in the 200 East Area and other access to underground piping or structures near the D&D sites that could contain asbestos will be evaluated and posted.
- The post-D&D site cleanup process will be reviewed and revised as needed, to include periodic checks of D&D sites after demolition
- A lessons-learned analysis of the D&D work will be conducted to ensure future D&D projects use controls that are rigorous and ensure contaminated water and asbestos-containing materials are controlled during and after demolition.
- Additional surveillance and maintenance of buildings/structures that contain asbestos will be conducted, and we will assess accelerating the schedule for vacating and demolishing facilities of most concern.

The team of industrial hygienists, HAMTC Safety Representatives, and asbestos experts will evaluate additional data as appropriate and will help determine whether or not any further actions are needed. As we know more about this issue, we will likely be taking additional actions. We will provide information on those actions as it becomes available.

If employees have concerns about exposure to asbestos, they should contact their management, as well as the Hanford Site occupational medical services provider (CSC) or their personal medical provider so that any health concerns may be evaluated and documented.

Concerns raised by employees have provided an opportunity to communicate more information about asbestos-containing material on the site. It's also given us an opportunity to look at the D&D sites, controls that are in place after demolition is done, and existing facilities that still have asbestos-containing materials.

Thank you for the feedback you provide every day as we conduct our work. We appreciate employees raising this issue and working with us to address the concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact your supervisor, HAMTC Safety Representative, or management.

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