



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

12-OCE-0084

Dear Former Hanford Site Employee:

Employment records indicate you worked at the Hanford Site in the past five years, when demolition activities were conducted near the Columbia River and near the center of the Hanford Site. During this period, approximately two dozen facilities containing asbestos were demolished using an alternative method of controlling asbestos during demolition. The purpose of this letter is to make sure you are aware that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Hanford Site employees have expressed concerns about the possibility for asbestos exposures associated with this method.

On December 14, 2011, the EPA OIG issued an Early Warning Report (Report No. 12-P-0125) regarding the use of certain asbestos demolition methods at multiple sites, including the Hanford Site. The OIG warned that certain building demolition methods that were being used at the Hanford Site, and other sites around the country, were not proven to be protective of human health.

During the demolition activities, as well as recent inspections of the work sites after demolition, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractors collected thousands of air samples. None of the samples have indicated any exposures to asbestos above the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Permissible Exposure Limit. The sample results were also below recommended limits set by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. The results of this sampling are contained in a report entitled "Industrial Hygiene Data Evaluation Team Report on Asbestos Samples Associated with Demolition Activities and Follow-up Sampling." The asbestos sampling report is posted on the Hanford website (<http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/EmployeeAsbestosInformation>), including the EPA OIG report, EPA responses to the report, actions taken by DOE and its contractors to prevent asbestos exposures, this letter, and messages sent to Hanford Site employees.

If you have concerns about potential exposure to asbestos during your Hanford employment, you may request an occupational medical screening examination by an occupational physician through the DOE Former Worker Medical Screening Program. This examination can be scheduled anywhere in the United States.

The physicals would include screening for various potential occupational exposures, including asbestos, depending on the type of work you did and the areas in which you worked. The screening physicals are free of charge and the results are confidential.

If you worked in the Building Trades, you should contact the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program on (509) 783-6830. If you worked any other occupation, you should contact the National Supplemental Screening Program on (866) 812-6703.

Former Hanford Site Employee
12-OCE-0084

-2-

If you later file a claim for an asbestos-related workplace injury or illness under the Hanford Site Workers' Compensation program (<http://ow.ly/apGiR>) or under the Department of Labor's Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (www.dol.gov/owcp/energy), DOE, through its contractors, will include information regarding this potential asbestos exposure along with your other industrial hygiene records to your claims handler to aid in making informed decisions on your claim.

Sincerely,

Matt McCormick
Manager