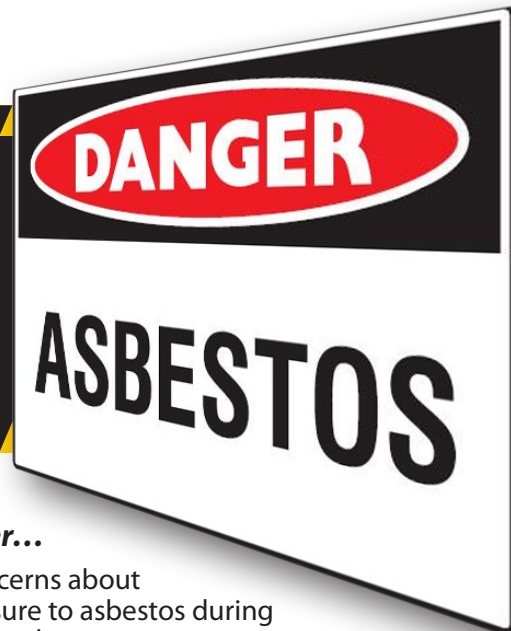


Asbestos: Exposure, Medical Screening, Compensation



Background

Many of the buildings on the Hanford Site contain or contained materials made with asbestos in varying amounts. For that reason, strict controls are in place to protect workers from exposure. While there are no medical tests that can determine recent exposures, evaluation over time can indicate if there is development of effects on the lungs. It can take years for lung diseases to occur after repeated, unprotected exposures to asbestos.

Recently, many employees have expressed concerns related to asbestos, asking that certain Deactivation and Decommissioning sites and existing facilities/steam lines on the Central Plateau of the Hanford Site be inspected for Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material, any asbestos material identified and/or cleaned up, and any adverse health effects be determined. Acting on these concerns is essential to a strong safety culture.

One of the concerns raised by employees was whether or not exposures or potential exposures to asbestos would be documented in case of future asbestos-related illnesses and requests for compensation for those illnesses. The team looked at current processes, which are described below, and also created a new process to address these concerns.

If you're an asbestos worker...

Workers who might be exposed to asbestos must complete training and follow strictly delineated and monitored protocols; they are also placed into the Asbestos Current Worker Program with CSC Hanford Occupational Health Services. This program provides a periodic evaluation—particularly of the pulmonary (lung) system—to assure that lung disease is not developing.

More information can be found at <http://www.hanford.gov/amh/?page=249>.

If you work at Hanford and have concerns about past exposure(s)...

Any Hanford Site employee who thinks that (s)he might have been exposed to asbestos may be enrolled in the Asbestos Worker Previous Exposure program which offers the same evaluation. (Former asbestos workers are automatically entered into the "Previous Worker" program, as triggered by their Employee Job Task Analysis modification.)

More information can be found in this Previous Exposure Enrollment Process fact sheet by CSC: www.hanford.gov/amh/files.cfm/CSC_CurWorkerPastExpos.pdf

If you're a former worker...

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 [DOE Former Worker Medical Screening Program \(FWP\)](#), which 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 (800) 866-9663 (www.btmed.org). If you worked any other occupation, you should contact the National Supplemental Screening Program on (866) 812-6703 (www.orau.org/NSSP).

If you worked on the Hanford Site from 2008 to present...

In addition to the programs/processes already available, a new process has been developed to describe concerns about the potential for asbestos exposure during this time period if future claims are made for compensation for asbestos-related illnesses. 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 Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, 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. This letter, along with related documents, can be found on the asbestos information page on the Hanford Site website: www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/EmployeeAsbestosInformation. You may print out and keep a copy of this record in your personal files.

If you're a Hanford employee and need information on filing a workers' compensation claim...

A web page that provides information and tools to assist employees can be found on the Hanford Site website at www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordWorkersCompensation.