

# ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**Subject:** UPDATE ON ASBESTOS CONCERNS AND ACTIONS

The Department of Energy (DOE) field offices, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) and Hanford Guards Union (HGU) Safety Representatives, site contractors, and employees across the site are taking several actions to address concerns about asbestos and a Stop Work related to asbestos. For more information on those concerns, we have attached the original message that was sent to site employees on February 2, 2012 (attached).

I'd like to reiterate how important it is for employees to share their concerns openly and thank employees who have raised concerns. This has prompted us to look beyond initial concerns about demolition of facilities and evaluate the condition of steam lines and facilities that have Potential Asbestos Containing Material (PACM). A team made up of DOE, HAMTC Safety Representatives, contractors, and concerned employees identified several corrective actions, and some of those actions have been completed.

For example, one of the concerns raised was the potential for exposure to asbestos after demolition of facilities was completed in the past three years. Samples taken during demolition in the past three years and debris removal over the past several weeks have been below Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limits. Additional sampling is underway in the vicinity of those sites.

We are setting up a section of the Hanford website ([www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov), or go directly to <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/EmployeeAsbestosInformation>) with information on corrective actions, sampling results, and resources for current and former employees to obtain information on asbestos, as well as briefings and information products that can be used in safety meetings. Hanford contractors are launching and will be announcing Industrial Hygiene hotlines, and I encourage employees to call them if they have questions or concerns.

It's our intent to share results of this sampling and information on corrective actions widely with employees across the site and previous employees who are no longer working at

Hanford. Because not everyone has daily access to email, we encourage you to share this message and the previous site-wide bulletin sent February 2, 2012, (attached). We will continue to keep you informed

and we appreciate your support and input as we move forward.

Addressing asbestos concerns and completing corrective actions remains a priority for DOE. It is important that employees have confidence in safe work practices at the Hanford Site.

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.

Matt McCormick, Manager  
Richland Operations Office

Scott L. Samuelson, Manager  
Office of River Protection

Attachment