



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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Phone 800-227-8917
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March 2007

Ref: 8EPR-SR

RE: Confirmation of Property Status – *Not Currently on Removal List*

Dear Libby Resident:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sending you this letter to confirm that although Libby Amphibole asbestos was detected at your property, the levels are below the preliminary removal criteria and your property is NOT currently on our list of Libby-area properties that require removals. However, it is possible that the situation may change in the future (see below) and your property may be added to the list. In that event, the work will be conducted by EPA at no cost to you.

In 2002, EPA performed a systematic screening of nearly all residential and commercial properties in the Libby area. This effort was called the Contaminant Screening Study (CSS) and included the collection of soil and dust samples, as well as the performance of indoor/outdoor visual inspections to look for potential sources of Libby Amphibole asbestos (such as vermiculite insulation) and to determine which properties require removals. EPA collected soil samples from each property we inspected - over 12,000 soil samples from approximately 3,500 properties. *EPA did not visually identify any potential sources of Libby Amphibole on your property. However, Libby Amphibole asbestos was detected in laboratory analysis of soil samples from your property, but at concentrations below EPA's preliminary removal criteria.*

EPA believes it is important to move ahead with the removals and reduce human health risk in the community, so we have proceeded with removals before a final "action level" has been set. Instead, we are using preliminary criteria to prioritize individual properties. We are working our way through the removals – from highest to lowest priority – incorporating geographical criteria as well as homeowner availability. We believe this approach is protective from the standpoint that it reduces exposure levels, which is the right thing to do. To develop the final action level, Superfund law requires that EPA complete specific studies and reports. EPA then publishes a "Proposed Plan" for clean up that is followed by a public comment period. Finally, EPA will issue a "Record of Decision" that sets forth the final cleanup plan and documents action levels.

Residents should be aware that this approach means that EPA may have to return to some properties to conduct additional sampling and removal, or may have to add new properties to the list, if the final action levels are substantially lower than anticipated. Also, we are currently in

the process of developing new methods for laboratory analysis of Libby Amphibole asbestos, so it is possible that the results of tests using these methods may require returning to some properties.

Approximately 1,600 properties were identified for removals using the CSS results. EPA has now completed removals at almost half of these - working our way through the list in order from highest to lowest priority. It is difficult to predict how long the remaining removals will take, as each varies greatly due to individual property characteristics (interior removals, exterior removals, or both).

If your property were to be added to the removal list in the future, you would be notified several months in advance of the actual work. After notification, you would be assigned to an on-site Community Involvement Coordinator who would explain the process to you in detail and help you with any questions you might have. EPA would work with you to design a work plan specific to your property and to help you throughout the entire experience. •

In the meantime, there is a new service in the area you should be aware of in case you encounter vermiculite on your property. The Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) is available for free consultation regarding dealing with Libby Amphibole asbestos. Contact the ERS during normal business hours or in an emergency at 406-291-5335.

We greatly appreciate your patience in this challenging and time-consuming process. If you have any questions regarding your property, please contact the EPA Information Center at 501 Mineral Ave in Libby (406-293-6194). We will do our best to answer your questions. Your support and understanding will help us expedite this work and make Libby an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Peronard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Peronard
EPA Libby Team Leader

Please call the EPA Info Center if your mailing address changes so we can get future mailings to you.