

The Technical Review Workgroup for Metals and Asbestos

Asbestos Committee Annual Report: Accomplishments and Activities for Calendar Year 2013

Members

Region 1

Margaret McDonough

Region 2

Mark Maddaloni

Charles Nace

Region 3

Jack Kelly

Region 4

Tim Frederick

Nardina Turner (co-chair)

Region 5

Sonia Vega

Region 6

Anna Milburn

Region 7

Dave Williams

Region 8

David Berry

Mary Goldade

Wendy O'Brien

Region 9

Gerald Hiatt

Daniel Stralka

Region 10

Jed Januch

Julie Wroble (co-chair)

ATSDR

Jill Dyken

Mark Johnson

OSWER

Stiven Foster

Les Szabo (SEE Program)

OECA

Ann Strickland

OEM

Eugene Lee

Terry Smith

OCSPP

Tom Simons

ORD

William M. Barrett, Jr.

OSRTI

Danielle DeVoney (co-chair)

Cheryl Hawkins

Linda Gaines

Edward Gilbert

TRW Asbestos Committee Accomplishments

Reports and Guidance Development Related to Asbestos Site Characterization and Risk Assessment

1) PROJECTS TO IMPROVE AND SUPPORT ASBESTOS ANALYSIS

A) National Analytical Services

- Developed mini-statements of work (SOWs) to provide consistent language for contracting with analytical laboratories for asbestos analysis.

B) National Asbestos Data Entry Sheets (NADES): Develop a standard electronic data deliverable (EDD) for asbestos lab results that imports to SCRIBE

- Responded to suggestions to update NADES EDD and posted revised versions for transmission electron microscopy (TEM), polarized light microscopy (PLM), and phase contrast microscopy (PCM) to the Internet for evaluation and to ensure consistency among regions.
- Developed a NADES for the fluidized bed asbestos segregator (FBAS) and posted to the Internet for evaluation.
- Supported discussions and implementation of NADES data conversion to SCRIBE.

C) Method Comparison Study: Research conducted to compare current analytical methods for asbestos on air filters to better support exposure assessment at Superfund sites.

- Conducted research (through ORD) to compare current analytical methods for asbestos on air filters to better support exposure assessment at Superfund sites.
- Submitted comments on the report and coordinated with ORD on report format, clarity, and content.

D) Fluidized Bed Asbestos Segregator (FBAS) Development: FBAS is being developed for the analysis of low-level asbestos in soils. The primary objective is to provide a method with significantly lower detection levels for asbestos in soils compared to currently available methods.

- Continued development of this method for the analysis of low-level asbestos in soils.
- A manuscript describing method development and performance evaluation has been developed by the primary researchers, reviewed by the TRW members and submitted to a journal for publication.

E) Releasable Asbestos Field Sampler (RAFS) Development: RAFS was developed as a potential screening tool to measure the releasability of asbestos from soils on site, improving the Agency's ability to assess site contamination and the potential for exposure from asbestos in site soils.

- Conducted research (through Office of Research and Development (ORD)) to evaluate a potential screening tool to identify areas of contamination and measure the releasability of asbestos from soils on site, improving the Agency's ability to assess site contamination and the potential for exposure from asbestos in site soils.
- Submitted comments on the report and coordinated with ORD on report format, clarity, and content.

- F) Low Magnification Analysis of Air Filters: Examination of filters at low magnification increases analytical sensitivity, improving the data quality by providing more robust data for exposure assessment.
- Developed draft recommendations regarding low magnification PCM equivalent analysis and exposure point concentration (EPC) statistics for low-level fiber counts based on input from laboratories regarding the use of the low magnification option for TEM analysis.
 - Research is ongoing to compare the fiber counts obtained from high magnification TEM analytical method with low magnification PCM equivalent only.
- G) ASTM Method Development
- Commented on the round robin evaluation of the ASTM vermiculite attic insulation test method for determining Libby Amphibole asbestos in vermiculite.
 - Commented on ASTM soil method (which was finalized by ASTM) for use at Superfund sites.

2) PROJECTS TO SUPPORT RISK ASSESSMENT

The TRW continues to develop guidance, provide clarification on existing guidance, provide support to regional risk assessors with site-specific questions, and work collaboratively to ensure consistency across asbestos-contaminated sites nationally. The following project was undertaken to support work being conducted in the Regions.

- A) Indoor Sampling Recommendations Addendum to Framework: This task is being done to develop recommendations on the preferred approach for indoor sampling at asbestos sites.
- Continued to develop recommendations on the preferred approach for indoor sampling at asbestos sites as an addendum to the Framework (OSWER, 2008).

3) OTHER TRW ASBESTOS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- A) Field Operations/Health and Safety Projects
- Developing best practices recommendations for health and safety during Asbestos Site Investigations regarding training and worker protection during ABS and other actions at asbestos sites.

Communication, Training, and Outreach

Hotline: The TRW Asbestos Committee responds to questions from inquiries made either by telephone to the TRW Asbestos Committee hotline (toll-free 1-866-282-8622) or email (asbestoshelp@epa.gov). The TRW Asbestos Committee responded to 28 requests for assistance in 2013. Of these calls, approximately 40% were from state or federal agencies. The remaining calls were from other sources (concerned citizens, engineering and consulting firms). Common issues included questions related to asbestos analysis, methods, and sampling.

Presentations/Training: TRW Asbestos Committee members presented at five conferences and training meetings in 2013. These are listed in the table below.

Event	Location	Dates	TRW Member	Title of Presentation
Clean Up 2013	Melbourne, NSW	9/14-9/16/13	Julie Wroble	Recent Trends and Developments in ASBESTOS IN SOIL (ASBINS) - US EPA Perspective
Beard Conference	Jacksonville, FL	Jan. 2013	Devoney, Wroble	EPA's Technical Review Workgroup: A Path Forward
Beard Conference	Jacksonville, FL	Jan. 2013	Januch, Berry	Evaluation of a Fluidized Bed Asbestos Segregator [FBAS] Preparation Method for the Analysis of Low-Levels of Asbestos in Soil
National Brownfields 2013 Conference	Atlanta, GA	May 15-17, 2013	Nardina Turner	Asbestos in Soil USEPA Region 4 Case Study, Zonolite Road Atlanta GAO 144
EPA Region 10 Office of Environmental Assessment Summer Meeting	Port Orchard, WA	August 2013	Jed Januch	Erionite

Website: The TRW Asbestos Committee website has been reviewed and restructured in coordination with the Agency-wide One-EPA Web Design.

Asbestos Committee Annual Meeting: Members of the TRW Asbestos Committee planned an Annual Meeting (February 25-27, 2014) to discuss ongoing projects, research needs, and planned activities for 2014.

Monthly Asbestos Sites Roundtable: The TRW Asbestos Committee initiated monthly teleconferences to provide an informal forum for the discussion of asbestos issues.

Coordination with Regions, EPA Program Offices, and Other Federal Agencies

Region 1: Consulted on the Naval Station Newport Site (Newport, CT) on approach to assess exposure to asbestos where asbestos-containing material was buried.

Region 3: Provided technical support concerning construction activities in areas with naturally occurring asbestos.

Region 4: Discussed potential site consultation for several sites, including US Finishing/Cone Mills NPL Site, Liberty Fibers Removal site, and Rome Powerhouse Removal site. Issues include buried asbestos waste, NESHAP compliance during demolition, removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials, and the potential for releases to the environment.

Region 5: Reviewed and discussed site-specific clean-up levels of asbestos at Lake Linden Calumet and Hecla Power Plant site in Michigan. Also, consulted on follow-up sampling needs for the Indianapolis tire fire event.

Region 8: Reviewed and discussed incorporating the count-based upper confidence limit (CB-UCL) tool into the Framework. Developed a position memo stating additional development of the tool is needed before implementing. Discussed the SAB review of Libby Amphibole RfC and IUR and RAFS Verification Test and Report Review and the Libby Action Plan Filter Verification Study. Reviewed the post-construction risk assessment for the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site (OU-2). Discussed the legal definition of asbestos in the Libby Court case. Collaborated to finalize a QAPP for erionite using the fluidized bed. Drafted response memo for assessing asbestos exposure during forest fires.

Region 10: Discussed the proposed Washington State legislation concerning asbestos labeling requirements.

Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO) and Department of Energy: Provided technical assistance on worker exposure to asbestos while performing ABS. Also, discussed Alternative Asbestos Control Method (AACM) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS) compliance issues during planned demolition activities.

Coordination with Other Workgroups and Nations

Australia: Provided informal comments on the Asbestos in Soil to Air Assessment Method (an approach for determining release ability of asbestos from soils) Western Australia soils research.

Israel: Provided comments on non-detects in air samples.

Ohio EPA: Provided recommendations on NESHAPS concerning residential demolitions.