

# The Technical Review Workgroup for Metals and Asbestos

## Asbestos Committee Annual Report: Accomplishments and Activities for Calendar Year 2014

### Members

#### Region 2

Mark Maddaloni  
Charles Nace (incoming co-chair)

#### Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Ann Strickland

#### Region 3

Jack Kelly

#### Office of Emergency Management

Eugene Lee

Terry Smith

Brian Schlieger

#### Region 4

Tim Frederick  
Nardina Turner (outgoing co-chair)

#### Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Policy Analysis and Regulatory Management

Stiven Foster

Les Szabo (Senior Environmental  
Employment Program)

#### Region 5

Sonia Vega

#### Region 6

Anna Milburn

#### Office of Research and Development

William M. Barrett, Jr.

Maureen Gwinn

#### Region 7

Dave Williams

#### Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

Cheryl Hawkins (co-chair)

Linda Gaines

Danielle DeVoney

Edward Gilbert

#### Region 8

David Berry (incoming co-chair)  
Mary Goldade  
Wendy O'Brien

#### Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Tom Simons

#### Region 9

Gerald Hiatt  
Daniel Stralka

#### Region 10

Jed Januch  
Julie Wroble (outgoing co-chair)

#### Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Jill Dyken

Mark Johnson

## TRW Asbestos Committee Accomplishments of Calendar Year 2014

### Reports and Guidance Development on Asbestos Site Characterization and Risk Assessment

#### 1) PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE ANALYSIS OF ASBESTOS IN SOIL AND AIR:

##### A) Mini-Statement of Work (SOW) for laboratory analysis and Asbestos Analytical Data Validation Report

- Provided example SOW that will improve consistency in contracting for analytical services for asbestos sites.
- Updated the list of asbestos lab audits conducted by Quality Assurance Technical Support (QATS) or EPA Regions (data from Regions 4 and 8 are available).

##### B) National Asbestos Data Entry Sheets (NADES): Spreadsheet tool for electronic data entry used by laboratories.

- Coordinated with the National Asbestos Data Management effort by EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT).
- Responded to suggestions to update the NADES Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) (e.g., field and laboratory blanks).
- Released revised versions of EPA's transmission electron microscopy (TEM), polarized light microscopic analysis (PLM), and fluidized bed asbestos segregator (FBAS) for use and review.

##### C) 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 screening tool with lower detection levels for asbestos in soils compared to currently available methods.

- Scientists from Regions 8 & Region 10 (Denver and Seattle) continued development of this analytical method. Performance Testing standards were tested to develop a performance curve.

##### D) Method Comparison Study: Review of the Office of Research and Development's (ORD's) research conducted to compare current analytical methods for asbestos on air filters to better support exposure assessment at Superfund sites.

- Continued review of the report.
- Discussion by the TRW Asbestos Committee to prepare a report on the findings of the review.

##### E) Releasable Asbestos Field Sampler (RAFS) Verification Test and Report Review: Review of ORD's research to develop the RAFS as a potential screening tool to measure the releasability of asbestos from soils on site.

- Review and discussion of the draft final report of the RAFS verification test.
- Drafted letter to ORD that indicated the TRW discontinuing the RAFS research based on the findings of the TRW Asbestos Committee.
- Discussion by the TRW Asbestos Committee to prepare a report on the findings of the review.

##### F) Low Magnification Analysis of Air Filters: Current practice for sample analysis is to use the high magnification option for the TEM analytical method which is time consuming and expensive. Examination of filters at low magnification increases analytical sensitivity, improving the data quality by providing more robust data for exposure assessment.

- Continued development of draft recommendations regarding low magnification phase contrast microscopy equivalent (PCMe) analysis and exposure point concentration (EPC) statistics for low-level fiber counts.
- G) American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Method Development: Reviewed the proposed draft ASTM soil method for asbestos.
- Commented on ASTM soil method in January.
  - Began ASTM California Air Resources Board analytical method 435 (CARB 435)-FBAS method comparison Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Set-up QAPP using the uniform federal policy (UFP) format [Region 8 & Region 10].
  - Region 10 regional methods project will compare ASTM soil method to other methods.
- H) Template QAPP Development:
- Delivered a proposed template QAPP in the UFP format for review
  - Developing an R5 format QAPP.
- 2) **RISK ASSESSMENT SUPPORT**: The TRW Asbestos Committee 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 projects were 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 draft recommendations on sampling (*e.g.*, stationary sampling, aggressive air sampling, dust sampling) for asbestos in indoor environments to supplement the Framework (OSWER, 2008).
- 3) **OTHER TRW ACTIVITIES**:
- A) Field Operations/Health and Safety Projects:
- Supported discussions regarding training and best practices for ABS and other actions at asbestos sites and decontamination issues.
  - Developed a *Best Practices for Asbestos Site Investigations* document. The final document will be posted to the TRW Asbestos Committee website.
  - Collaborated with EPA Regions 6 and 8 On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) to support the review of the Health and Safety standard operating procedures.
- B) One EPA Asbestos Website:
- Assisted with the incorporation of the existing TRW website materials into the one-EPA format.
  - Subcommittee continued to review and restructure the One-EPA Web Design for addressing asbestos at Superfund sites.
  - Worked with management in the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation to final legal issues.
  - Posted updated TRW Asbestos Committee Website in August.

## Communication, Training, and Outreach

**Hotline:** The TRW Asbestos Committee responds to questions from inquiries made either by telephone (toll-free 1-866-282-8622) to the TRW Asbestos Committee hotline or email (asbestoshelp@epa.gov). The TRW Asbestos Committee responded to 26 requests for assistance in 2014. Of these calls, more than half 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 NESHAP, asbestos analysis, methods, and sampling.

**Presentations/Training:** TRW Asbestos Committee members presented at a number of conferences and training meetings in 2014. These are listed in the table below.

Meeting/Presentation/Training	Location	Dates	TRW Member	Title of Presentation
National Association of Remedial Project Managers (NARPM)	Atlanta, GA	6/16	Tim Frederick Chuck Nace Jill Dyken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case Study: North Ridge Estates Asbestos Site</li><li>• Overview of the Asbestos Framework Document</li><li>• BoRit Asbestos Site</li><li>• Puerto Rico Olefins</li></ul>
Asbestos Analysis and Risk Assessment	EPA Region 6	7/8	Julie Wroble	Asbestos Risk Assessment
Asbestos Training Session	State of Oregon	5/8	Julie Wroble Jed Januch	Recent Trends and Developments in Asbestos Assessment – US EPA Perspective

**Website:** This website has been developed in coordination with the Agency-wide asbestos website in order to provide Superfund-specific information on asbestos. The TRW Asbestos Committee continues to support the transition to the One-EPA Web format.

**Asbestos Committee Annual Meeting:** Members of the TRW Asbestos Committee plan to meet in early 2015 to discuss ongoing projects, research needs, and planned activities for 2015.

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

**Region 2:** Collaboration with asbestos contamination and sampling efforts for PR Olefins site in Puerto Rico.

**Region 3:** Provided technical support for an apartment complex with the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) cleanup issues in Virginia. Discussed NESHAP cleanup issues at a facility in Baltimore (collapse at the facility).

**Region 4:** Discussed site consultation and activity-based sampling plans for Liberty Fibers.

**Region 5:** Reviewed and provided technical support to the C&H Powerplant site (Torch Lake Township, MI). Discussed the prevalence of and exposure to asbestos-contaminated well water at the John Manville Site (Waukegan, IL).

**Region 6:** Reviewed and discussed Health and Safety issue regarding contamination in a trailer. Provided training to OSCs on asbestos analysis and risk assessment.

**Region 8:** Discussed the SAB review of Libby Amphibole inhalation reference concentration (RfC) and inhalation unit risk (IUR) and the Releasable Asbestos Field Sampler (RAFS) Verification Test and Report Review and the Libby Action Plan Filter Verification Study. Reviewed the post-remedial Residual Risk Assessment Review for the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site (Operating Units 4 and 7). Discussed the legal definition of asbestos in the Libby Court case. Discussed the Region 8 Risk Assessment, Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan documents and the strategy for the TRW review.

**Region 10:** Provided technical consultation on background and removal strategies for the Northridge Estates site.

**Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Assessment:** Reviewed the EPA Internal Review Draft of the Toxicity Value Assessment for Libby Amphibole Asbestos.

**EPA's Criminal Investigation Division:** Supported criminal enforcement work in Region 10.

### **Coordination with Other Workgroups**

**State of Oregon:** Coordinated asbestos sampling and lab analysis training.

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency:** Provided recommendations on NESHAPS concerning residential demolitions.