

Asbestos Technical Review Workgroup 2022 Accomplishments

The Asbestos Technical Review Workgroup (Asbestos TRW) has made significant advances in the areas training, procedures, sampling and analytical methods to improve the quality of site characterizations and risk assessments at asbestos-contaminated sites.

Training Materials:

First among these accomplishments is development of training materials and videos that explain the important updates made to the Asbestos Framework in 2021. The updates will substantially improve the accuracy of risk characterizations and provide step by step advice on how to proceed with sampling, and on how to choose the most appropriate analytical method for asbestos quantitation in various matrices. The updates also clarify how to estimate exposures for this uncharacteristic contaminant.

Additionally, the Asbestos TRW met in Chicago in October of 2022 to put together training materials that describe in detail how to perform incremental sampling for asbestos contaminated soil and is currently working on developing materials that will clearly explain how samples are analyzed. Methods can vary greatly and have different limitations. It is important that OSCs and RPMs understand these, so they can make well-informed decisions for the protection of public health.

Method Evaluation:

The asbestos TRW has also undertaken or sponsored several studies of asbestos analytical methods to determine which method is most accurate. The results of these studies will help OSCs and RPMs choose the best methods for their sites. The Asbestos TRW continues work on updating the National Asbestos Data Entry Sheet (NADES) tools to improve record keeping, and consistency of data use. The NADES tools will integrate with OneDrive and other data management applications.

Regional Support:

One of the Asbestos TRW's core missions is to provide support the regional, state, tribal and sometimes international organizations so they can stop, assess, and mitigate exposures safely and effectively. The Asbestos TRW provides highly experienced and well-trained experts who can help with complex decisions and methods required of these sites. The TRW consulted on five complex asbestos contaminated Superfund and RCRA sites. The Asbestos TRW members regularly attend international and national scientific conferences and workshops that focus on asbestos science and analytical techniques. In addition, OSRTI and the TRW sponsor an in-house microscopy workshop (also supported by Region 10, where our asbestos analytical lab is located) so that TRW members can improve their understanding of these methods, hone their skills, and better support regional needs.

Communication and Outreach:

The Asbestos TRW also provides speakers and presents information at such venues as ASTM, NARPM, the Johnson-Rook Asbestos Conference and the Beard Asbestos Conference.

Please see the attached complete annual report for detailed information on the services and accomplishments of the Asbestos TRW for 2022.

Asbestos Technical Review Workgroup Members:

Region 1

Gary Lipson (Retired)

Region 2

Nick Mazziotta (co-chair)

Charles Nace

Region 3

Jack Kelly

Joseph Gawarzewski

Region 4

Tim Frederick

Nardina Turner

Candice Teichert

Region 5

Elizabeth Nightingale

Region 6

Anna Milburn (co-chair)

Region 7

Angela Sena

Region 8

David Berry

Jason Fritz

Region 10

Jed Januch

Julie Wroble

Environmental Response Team (ERT)

Philip Solinski

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Brian Schlieger

**Office of Superfund Remediation and
Technology Innovation (OSRTI)**

Andrea Kirk (co-chair)

Edward Gilbert