

Technical Review (TRW) Workgroup – Asbestos 2023 Accomplishments

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

Technical Support

One of the fundamental roles and responsibilities of the TRW Asbestos Committee is to provide technical support to state, federal, tribal, non-governmental and international groups regarding asbestos assessment. The TRW Asbestos Committee members are technically diverse, experienced and highly trained professionals in chemistry, toxicology, sampling, analysis and human health risk assessment, and provide expert assistance in complex site assessment scenarios.

The TRW Asbestos Committee responded to nine hotline (asbestoshelp@epa.gov) requests for assistance in 2023. Six requests were from EPA regional offices, one request was from a state department of environmental services and two requests were from private consultants. Common issues in the requests included questions related to asbestos analytical methods, data evaluation and sampling.

The TRW Asbestos Committee consulted on three asbestos-contaminated sites in Regions 1, 2 and 4. Members of the TRW Asbestos Committee also reviewed and provided comments on a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding their personal care products testing program as well as three documents related to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) proposed regulations for asbestos (parts 1 and 2). Additionally, the TRW Asbestos Committee provided a demonstration of the Fluidized Bed Asbestos Segregator (FBAS) to researchers from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Technical papers and guidance were also provided to the University of Auckland researchers.

Communication, Training and Outreach

In 2023, the TRW Asbestos Committee continued developing a self-guided PowerPoint slide training presentation to support training on the updated 2021 Framework. A transcript for narration to accompany the PowerPoint slide presentation was the primary focus of this task during 2023. A video describing asbestos analytical methods, which supplements the Framework training, was also finalized in 2023. We expect to complete the training materials in 2024, including finalization of the the narration for the slide shows in 2024.

The TRW Asbestos Committee also provided speakers and presented information at such venues as the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Readiness Conference (January 2023), National Association of Remedial Project Managers (NARPM) Conference (August 2023), Southeastern

States Asbestos Council Meeting (October 2023), and 16-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Health and Safety course on asbestos (November 2023).

The TRW Asbestos Committee continues work on updating the National Asbestos Data Entry Sheet (NADES) tools to improve record-keeping and consistency of data use.

Research Projects

The TRW Asbestos Committee has also undertaken or sponsored several studies of asbestos analytical methods (both air and soil) to determine which methods are most accurate. The results of these studies will help OSCs and RPMs choose the best methods for their sites. A report detailing the outlier and statistical comparison analysis for an air analytical methods comparison study was finalized in February 2023.

Technical Review Workgroup for Metals and Asbestos Asbestos Committee

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