



Community Update

Zonolite Co. / W.R. Grace Site

Hamilton Township, New Jersey

March 2006

How were the homes chosen?

EPA will sample in areas where asbestos may have migrated from the W.R. Grace plant site.

EPA randomly chose homes from among many homes meeting one or more of the following criteria.

- The home existed prior to 1991, at the time the plant was operating and receiving vermiculite from Libby, MT.
- The home's yard has not been disturbed or regraded, potentially burying any asbestos.
- The home is downwind of the plant based on historical prevailing wind patterns.

EPA is continuing to assess soil near the former W.R. Grace plant on Industrial Drive in Hamilton to help determine whether asbestos may have been carried by the wind from the former plant and deposited on soil at nearby homes. We will collect samples at 18 public parks within a two-mile radius and as many as 25 homes within a half-mile radius of the former plant.

The testing will occur in April. EPA representatives will meet individually with the owners of the properties that are selected for this sampling. In addition to residential properties, we will sample a wide range of public parks to gain more information on potential contamination in the area.

EPA will host an information session on March 22 to talk with residents about this sampling program.

Background

For more than 40 years, W.R. Grace processed vermiculite ore for use in fireproofing, insulation and garden products at the plant site. The ore was shipped to Hamilton and dozens of other locations throughout the country from a W.R. Grace-owned mine in Libby, Montana.

Vermiculite from the Libby mine was contaminated with naturally occurring amphibole asbestos including tremolite, a potent spear-like form of asbestos. Other forms of asbestos were also used in the operations. Asbestos, if breathed, can cause lung disease, including asbestosis and mesothelioma, a form of lung cancer associated with asbestos.

EPA completed the first phase of cleanup at the former W.R. Grace plant in April 2004. Approximately 9,200 tons of soil contaminated with asbestos were removed and shipped to a secure landfill in Pennsylvania. The excavated areas were filled in with clean soil. Additional removal of contaminated soil from a wetland area adjacent to the plant site is planned for late spring or as soon as favorable conditions allow.

Information Session

Wednesday, March 22, 2006
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Klockner Elementary School
830 Klockner Ave. in Hamilton

For information on this meeting, please call Wendy Thomi at 212-637-3669

Questions?

Current off-site sampling

Kim Staiger, On-Scene Coordinator
732-452-6415
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Wendy Thomi, Community Involvement Coordinator
212-637-3669
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Future soil removal near the plant site

Mike Ferriola, On-Scene Coordinator
732- 906-4342
ferriola.mike@epa.gov

Visit EPA's Web site at:
www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/removal/hamilton

EPA Regional Public Liaison

EPA Region 2 has designated a public liaison as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the Agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express concerns, or register complaints about Superfund. The public liaison for EPA's Region 2 office is:

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