



# Superfund and You

## Residential Cleanup Status Letters

For the last several years, EPA has been working to remove sources of Libby Amphibole asbestos (LA) in residential interiors and exteriors and to conduct post-removal restoration of those properties. We have completed removal and restoration work (“clean ups”) at about 800 Libby properties and have a target of 160 clean ups in 2007. We are working our way through the remaining clean ups on the basis of specific property information, incorporating geographical criteria and owner availability.

All Libby properties that have not been cleaned up are grouped into one of three categories based on sampling results and inspections. These categories are:

- **not on cleanup list** – no visual LA sources or positive soil sample results
- **on cleanup list** – visual LA *or* sample results above preliminary removal criteria
- **not currently on cleanup list** - no visual LA *or* sample results below preliminary removal criteria

In the future, some properties on the third list may be moved to the cleanup list if the final cleanup action level is set lower than the preliminary removal criteria. Also, a substantially lower action level may require that EPA

return to some already-cleaned properties to conduct additional work. That is the trade off we made in acting to reduce exposures as quickly as possible. We believe it was – and is - the right thing to do, because it allowed us to immediately reduce exposure levels (beginning in 2001) without waiting until final cleanup decisions were made.

The decision on the final cleanup action level will be made by EPA in the Record of Decision after the completion of several documents (including the remedial investigation, risk assessment, and feasibility study). We anticipate that this will not occur before 2009.

EPA recently sent out a letter to all residents in each of the three categories (who have not yet had cleanups completed). The letter is intended to update their cleanup status and to provide more details about their respective category.

For more information about these cleanup status letters, you can visit or call the EPA Information Center at 501 Mineral Ave. (293-6194). Residents are also encouraged to learn more about the site by attending a monthly Community Advisory Group or Technical Assistance Group meeting. The dates and times are announced in the papers in advance.