



## Superfund and You - *Outdoor Ambient Air Sampling*

EPA is implementing an Outdoor Ambient Air Sampling Program in Lincoln County. The phrase *outdoor ambient air* refers to samples that are collected outdoors on a community-wide basis to characterize an entire area. What we learn from this study will help us fill in recently identified data gaps in order to complete our Baseline Risk Assessment.

EPA regularly conducts extensive sampling of indoor and outdoor air in the areas where we are working. This helps ensure that workers and the public are protected during construction and that the clean up meets air standards.

The existing outdoor ambient air data were summarized in a report released on June 23, 2006. The report concluded that the existing data are incomplete because of a lack of seasonal and geographic representation over time, and because there are not enough data points at adequate sensitivity.

This new sampling effort will allow EPA to collect outdoor ambient air samples from a well-defined, community-wide network of samplers, over a longer period of time (at least one year-covering all seasons). Thus we can more definitively determine *if* Libby Amphibole (LA) asbestos is present in the community's air under typical, outdoor conditions.

*If* LA asbestos is shown to be present, the information from the sampling network would help map its location (i.e., is it localized or widespread?). Also, *if* LA asbestos is detected, the data will be used to estimate human health risks from breathing that air.

EPA is currently working with Libby property owners to install a network of dedicated air samplers that will operate during the sampling period. Sampler locations have been selected to ensure the network covers the entire community.

Each sampler will be housed in a weather-proof, metal box that is wired to the property owner's electrical system (residents will be reimbursed for the power consumed). After set up, air samples will be collected on a five-day on/five-day off schedule, using a small, electric pump that runs continuously during the "on" period. EPA will monitor the samplers regularly to ensure they are operating as planned and to collect the air samples from the device.

We will be reporting the results of the outdoor ambient air sampling to the public over its duration. For more info, you can stop by or call the EPA Information Center, at 501 Mineral Ave. (293-6194).

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