



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 19 2012

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20051

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your fax of November 15, 2011, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), regarding Mr. Paul West's interest in becoming an accredited trainer of asbestos inspectors. Specifically, Mr. West has expressed interest in becoming an Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan (MAP) trainer for the Inspector and Management Planner disciplines in the state of Oregon, and had previously been in communication with EPA seeking assistance.

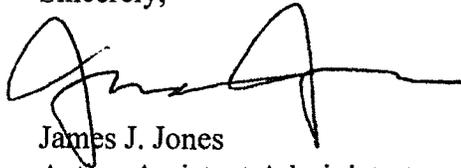
As you may be aware, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1986 required that public and private non-profit primary and secondary schools inspect their buildings for asbestos-containing building materials. The law also required EPA to develop a MAP for an accredited and trained workforce to ensure compliance with the AHERA rule. The law also required that the states take full responsibility for course accreditation and for implementing asbestos worker training programs. Following the enactment of AHERA, EPA accredited MAP course disciplines for an interim period while states were developing and implementing their own programs. On September 20, 1989, EPA announced in the Federal Register that in accordance with Section 206(b) of AHERA, the Agency would no longer review new courses for accreditation and the States would assume this responsibility.

At this point in time, Oregon is responsible for accreditation of the Inspector and Management Planner courses that Mr. West would like to provide. However, as Mr. West indicates in his e-mails, he has been informed by the state that they are not accrediting courses for the discipline that he is seeking. My staff contacted Oregon Department of Environmental Quality officials on this matter on Mr. West's behalf and were also informed that the state does not accredit the Inspector and Management Planner courses but does continue to accredit the asbestos worker and asbestos contractor/supervisor courses under the MAP.

As Mr. West points out in his e-mails, it is also possible to be accredited by an EPA-approved MAP state if your state does not have an accredited program. Mr. West has been in touch with Montana but felt that the stipulations they required for approval were cost prohibitive to him. California has recently been approved as an EPA-approved MAP state and we have also contacted them on Mr. West's behalf. We suggest that Mr. West contact Jeff Ferrell, in California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Asbestos Unit, at 916-574-2993 or at JFerrell@dir.ca.gov, to speak with him directly about the requirements for approval in California. In case it would be useful to Mr. West, I am also providing a link to a complete list of the EPA-approved MAP states. The list can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/epaaprv.pdf>.

I hope this information has been helpful to you. If you have additional questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Mr. Sven-Erik Kaiser in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James J. Jones
Acting Assistant Administrator

Enclosure