



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

March 2007

Ref: 8EPR-SR

RE: Confirmation of Property Status – *Currently on Removal List*

Dear Libby Resident:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sending you this letter to confirm that your property is on our list of Libby-area properties that require the removal of Libby Amphibole asbestos. The removal will be conducted by EPA at no cost to you.

In 2002, EPA performed a systematic screening of nearly all residential and commercial properties in the Libby area. This effort was called the Contaminant Screening Study (CSS) and included the collection of soil and dust samples, as well as the performance of indoor/outdoor visual inspections to look for potential sources of Libby Amphibole asbestos (such as vermiculite insulation) and to determine which properties require removals. EPA collected soil samples from each property we inspected - over 12,000 soil samples from approximately 3,500 properties. *Your property was placed on the removal list because of the visual identification of vermiculite and/or the presence of Libby Amphibole asbestos in concentrations above preliminary cleanup criteria in samples taken from your property.*

EPA believes it is important to move ahead with the removals and reduce human health risk in the community, so we have proceeded with removals before a final "action level" has been set. Instead, we are using preliminary criteria to prioritize individual properties. We are working our way through the removals – from highest to lowest priority – incorporating geographical criteria as well as homeowner availability. We believe this approach is protective from the standpoint that it reduces exposure levels, which is the right thing to do. To develop the final action level, Superfund law requires that EPA complete specific studies and reports. EPA then publishes a "Proposed Plan" for clean up that is followed by a public comment period. Finally, EPA will issue a "Record of Decision" that sets forth the final cleanup plan and documents action levels.

Residents should be aware that this approach means that EPA may have to return to some properties to conduct additional sampling and removals, or may have to add new properties to the list, if the final action levels are lower than anticipated. Also, we are currently in the process of developing new methods for laboratory analysis of Libby Amphibole asbestos, so it is possible that the results of tests using these methods may require returning to some properties.

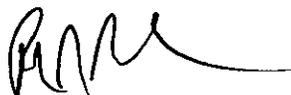
Approximately 1,600 properties were identified for removals using the CSS results. EPA has now completed removals at almost half of these - working our way through the list in order from highest to lowest priority. It is difficult to predict how long the remaining removals will take, as each varies greatly due to individual property characteristics (interior removals, exterior removals, or both).

Although we cannot tell you at this time when work at your property will be scheduled, we can assure you that you will be notified several months in advance of the actual work. After notification, you will be assigned to an on-site Community Involvement Coordinator who will be able to explain the process to you in detail and help you with any questions you may have. EPA will work with you to design a work plan that is specific to your property and will help you throughout the entire experience.

In the meantime, there is a new service in the area you should be aware of in case you encounter vermiculite on your property. The Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) is available for free consultation regarding dealing with Libby Amphibole asbestos. Contact the ERS during normal business hours or in an emergency at 406-291-5335.

We greatly appreciate your patience in this challenging and time-consuming process. If you have any questions regarding your property, please contact the EPA Information Center at 501 Mineral Ave in Libby (406-293-6194). We will do our best to answer your questions. Your support and understanding will help us expedite this work and make Libby an even better place to live.

Sincerely,



Paul Peronard
EPA Libby Team Leader

Please call the EPA Info Center if your mailing address changes so we can get future mailings to you.