



California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control



Garden Valley Site Discovery Project Garden Valley, California

Work Notice

August 2000

Introduction

In 1998 and 1999, the California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board conducted air monitoring in the Garden Valley area and determined that asbestos fibers detected exceeded the Proposition 65 notification level for asbestos in air. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will sample surface material from several areas to identify potential sources of naturally occurring asbestos which may contribute to airborne asbestos emissions. DTSC will seek to identify sources of naturally occurring asbestos located within about two miles of Golden Sierra High School.

Potential sources of naturally occurring asbestos that DTSC has identified within this area include Bear Creek Quarry and Garden Valley Aggregates, a small excavation pit, unpaved roads that may contain serpentine and several school bus stops. DTSC will not sample unpaved driveways. **DTSC will sample unpaved roads and bus stops August 22-24, 2000 between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm.** Sampling events for other potential sources may occur over the next several weeks. Samples will be scraped from the surface within the top one to two inches with no samples collected at a depth greater than six inches.

Based on conversations with a number of residents of Garden Valley, DTSC believes that answers to some of the questions asked by them will be helpful to others as well.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral found in soil and rock such as serpentine found throughout

California. People have historically used processed asbestos for insulation, ceiling tiles, floor tiles, and automotive brake pads among other uses.

How is naturally occurring asbestos a health risk?

Asbestos is classified as a known human cancer causing substance by state, federal, and international health agencies. It is a fibrous material which may cause lung cancer, mesothelioma (a rare cancer of the lung linings), and asbestosis (a non-cancer respiratory disease). The presence of asbestos alone does not pose a health problem. What may, however, pose a risk is any activity which disturbs asbestos containing material (e.g., driving on serpentine aggregate which contains asbestos), therefore, increasing the likelihood that asbestos fibers will become airborne. The risk is associated with breathing asbestos fibers. No environmental or health agency has established a safe level for asbestos in soil.

If asbestos is found on my property, is my health at risk?

If asbestos is found on your property, the risk that it poses may or may not be significant. Risk depends on the concentration and duration of exposure to airborne asbestos. Factors that influence the amount of airborne asbestos present are:

- the concentration of asbestos fibers in the surface soil;
- the amount of fine particles in the surface material;
- the frequency of the disturbance of the asbestos containing material;
- the proximity of people to the asbestos sources;

DTSC can evaluate the health risk from the amount of asbestos in the air. Therefore, DTSC plans to conduct air sampling in Garden Valley over the next year to evaluate the health risk to the community.

After the soil sampling work is completed, what will DTSC do next?

DTSC will send the soil sample results to the property owners who gave DTSC voluntary access to sample the material on their private road. At about the same time, DTSC in cooperation with U.S. EPA and California Air Resources Board will conduct air monitoring on a long term basis (over a one year period) so that DTSC can estimate the long term health risk from airborne asbestos. Also, air sampling will be conducted to better define the primary sources of airborne asbestos. Other evaluations may be conducted during the next year to better define the sources of exposure.

If asbestos is found on a portion of a private road that I own, will I be required to clean-up the problem by covering or removing the material?

Where DTSC detects asbestos on a property, we will send information regarding health concerns and mitigation to the property owner so they can choose whether to take action to limit their exposure to asbestos. Such actions may include covering or removing material containing naturally occurring asbestos.

Mailing Coupon

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to receive future mailings regarding the Garden Valley sampling project, please complete and return this coupon to Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, 10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3, Sacramento CA 95827.

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Garden Valley sampling by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and asking to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650.