



COALINGA ASBESTOS MINE SUPERFUND SITE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • NOVEMBER 1997

EPA Announces Intent to Remove Coalinga Asbestos Mine from Superfund List

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 announces its intent to delete the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund site from the National Priorities List (NPL). The Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund site has two operable units (OUs): the City of Coalinga (City Unit) and the Coalinga Mine/Johns-Manville (JM Unit) Superfund sites. An operable unit is an area where a particular action is taken as part of an overall site cleanup. EPA is requesting public comment on this proposed action. A public notice of this proposal has been published in the Federal Register with a public comment period

ending date of December 21, 1997. EPA and the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) have determined that the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund site no longer poses a significant threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, further cleanup measures under the Superfund program are not warranted.

This fact sheet contains information on the proposal to delete this site, explains the Record of Decision for both operable units and explains how the public can give comments regarding the proposal to remove the site from the NPL list.

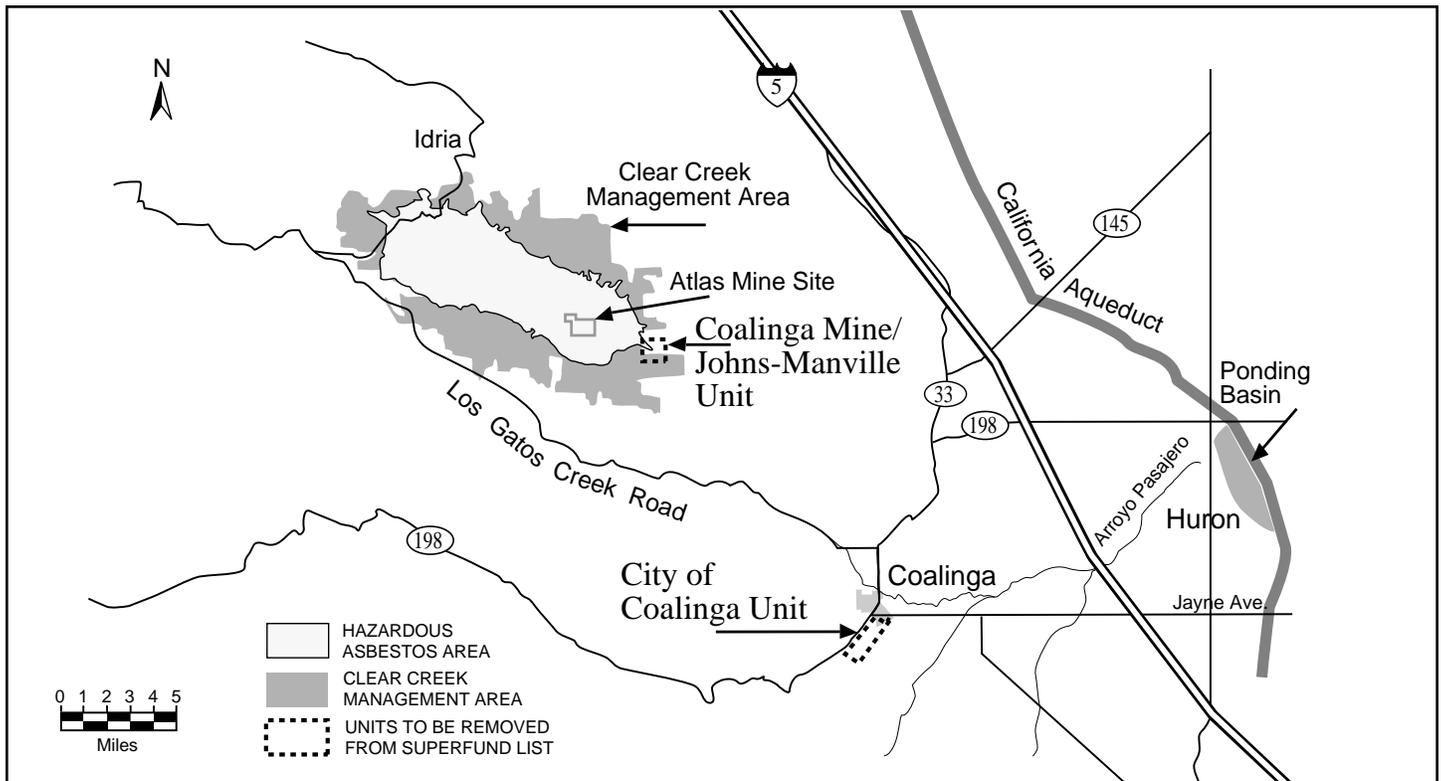


Figure 1: Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund Site

City of Coalinga Operable Unit

The City Unit's Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in July 1989, and the site was declared clean in April 1992. The cleanup included excavating asbestos and nickel contamination and storing it in a Waste Management Unit (WMU). The WMU, located on Elm Street near Lucille Avenue, is a 20-foot deep pit covered with an impermeable cap and landscaped with natural habitat. The unit is fenced and restricted to public entry.

Nearby, on formerly-contaminated land, are homes built after the cleanup, future home sites and a new large retail store. The first Five-Year Review was completed in April 1996 and ensures that the

integrity of remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. With the deletion of this operable unit from the NPL, and where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remain at the site, EPA will continue to conduct Five-Year Reviews.

Coalinga Mine/Johns-Manville Operable Unit

JM Unit's Record of Decision was signed September 1990. The site is a privately owned, 120-acre tract of land located in the upper Pine Canyon on the southern flank of the Joaquin Ridge in the Diablo Range, 16 miles northwest of the City of Coalinga. The remediation has been completed for this unit, and the final inspection was con-

ducted in June 1994. The completed remedy consists of: stream diversion, mill demolition, access restriction, road paving, regrading the tailings pile and revegetation. The pilot revegetation project was successful, and revegetation of the entire area was accomplished. The remedy was designed to increase stability of the tailings piles and decrease erosion. Although nearby roads were washed out and access to the site was denied for six weeks, the 100-year flooding event in March 1995 did little damage to the site. This proved the effectiveness of the design of the remedy. Long-term operation and maintenance is required to insure the integrity of the remedy. A Five-Year Review of the integrity of this site cleanup is expected by the end of 1997. ■

Site Background

During the investigation of the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund site and the nearby Atlas Mine Superfund site, EPA conducted an airborne asbestos sampling program in which high asbestos readings were measured in the City of Coalinga. Further investigation revealed that during Southern Pacific Railroad's ownership, several properties were leased to various entities active in the milling, manufacture, storage and/or transportation of asbestos materials from the mid-1950s until approximately 1980. The Atlas Mine and Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund sites were added to the NPL in September 1984. The City Unit was added as an operable unit when it was discovered that asbestos fibers measured in the City could be traced to these sites.

Why Are We Proposing This Site for Deletion?

The National Contingency Plan (NCP), which is the regulation that governs EPA's Superfund program, provides that a site may be deleted from the NPL, or recategorized, when no further response is appropriate. EPA has considered, in consultation with the State, the criteria used to delete a site from the NPL. EPA bases its decision to delete the site on the criterion that the responsible parties have implemented all appropriate response actions required for the site. Even if a site is deleted from the NPL,

where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remain at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, EPA's policy is that a subsequent review of the site will be conducted at least every five years after the initiation of the remedial action at the site to ensure that the site remains protective of public health and the environment. A site deleted from the NPL remains eligible for remedial actions in the unlikely event that conditions at the site warrant such action.

EPA WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS

Written comments on the Notice of Intent to Delete should be sent to the following address postmarked no later than December 21, 1997:

Keith Takata

Division Director
Superfund Division
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105

Oral comments can also be received through this date and should be directed to

Richard Procnier
at **(415) 744-2219**

or a message can be left toll free at **(800) 231-3075** and your call will be returned promptly.



INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The EPA encourages you to review and submit comments regarding the proposed deletion of the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund site from the National Priorities List. The Notice of Intent to Delete and related site documents are available for review at EPA's offices in San Francisco and at the following locations:

SUPERFUND RECORDS CENTER

95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

HURON CITY HALL

36311 Lassen Avenue
Huron, CA 93234
(209) 945-2241

COALINGA DISTRICT LIBRARY

305 N. 4th Street
Coalinga, CA 93210
(209) 935-1676

AVENAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

501 East Kings
Avenal, CA 93204
(209) 386-5741

KINGS COUNTY LIBRARY

401 North Douty
Hanford, CA 93230
(209) 582-0261

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the site,
please call EPA's toll-free information line:

1-800-231-3075

and leave a message for

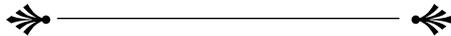
Jacqueline Lane

Community Involvement Coordinator

or

Richard Procunier

Remedial Project Manager



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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
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