



IN REPLY  
REFER TO

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE  
2800 Collage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825

SEP 30 1983

Memorandum

To: State Director  
From: Deputy State Director, Lands & Renewable Resources  
Subject: Recent News Article on Coalinga Asbestos Mine

The subject article (attached) discusses two mines in the Coalinga Area - the Coalinga Asbestos Mine and the Atlas Asbestos Mine. To find out the status and locations of these sites, calls were made to the Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services. The New Idria Mine is another mine of concern to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, yet not mentioned in the article. Each site location was searched for landownership. The following is an analysis of the situation:

BACKGROUND:

Coalinga Asbestos Mine

Location: T. 19S, R. 13E, Sec. 27, approximately two miles north of Los Gatos.

Land Status: Private Land.

Site Status: Listed on the National Superfund list of hazardous waste sites.

The National Superfund list is a list of the worst hazardous waste sites in the Nation, all of which have been ranked as to their hazard. They have been evaluated relative to their risk to the public health and the environment. All sites on the national priorities list have been targeted for cleanup by Federal and State government or the responsible parties in cooperation with the EPA Superfund.

New Idria Mine

Location: T. 17S, R. 11E., Sec. 29.

Land Status: Private Land.

Site Status: Mercury Mine. **(NOT A SUPERFUND SITE)**

Post-it Fax Note	7671	Date	3/22	# of pages	3
To	STEVE BARRELL		From	TIM MOORE	
Co/Dept		Co.			
		Phone #			

27-1 ✓

Atlas Asbestos Mine

Location: T. 18S, R. 10E, Sec. 31, and Sec. 32.

Land Status: Public Land.

Site Status: The mill site is on private land with the tailings on public lands. This operation is on the Superfund List.

Discussion:

EPA Region 9, requested that both the Coalings and Atlas Mines be added to the national priority site cleanup list for Superfund. They were ranked and received a score high enough to be funded with Superfund money. The Region then asked their W.O. for money to hire a contractor to do a Remedial Action Master Plan (RAMP). They were allocated \$25,000 for this effort. This is the first step of determining what needs to be done with the site. The RAMP contractor is CHY M HILL and will be paid from the Superfund account. We assume that EPA will at sometime send BLM a bill for every action they take that uses Superfund money.

The next step after the RAMP study is the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The Regional Office has received approval for approximately \$350,000 to accomplish this task by the end of FY 84. This study includes a remedial investigation, sampling of soils, surface waters, ground waters, quality assurance contractors and an evaluation of the data that defines options available for the site cleanup. This evaluation includes a cost effectiveness evaluation and selects a preferred cleanup method.

Proposed Action Needed for Atlas Site:

1. Hollister AO, BLM inventory mill site to determine if tailing piles are on public lands.
2. BLM SO/DO meet with EPA and California Department of Health Services at the site to be briefed on current status.
3. CSO Division of Resources identify additional funding needed through the PAWP for this site and its upcoming cleanup.

Proposed Future Actions:

1. Provide public exposure to BLM's actions on the Atlas Mine cleanup (positive).
2. Shift contracting for cleanup from EPA to BLM.
3. Continue to monitor site cleanup.

/s/ RICHARD F. JOHNSON

cc: DM, Bakersfield  
AM, Hollister RA