



U.S. EPA

ATLAS ASBESTOS MINE SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco, CA 94105

Coalinga, CA

March 1991

EPA SELECTS CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR THE ATLAS MINE AREA OPERABLE UNIT OF THE ATLAS ASBESTOS MINE SITE

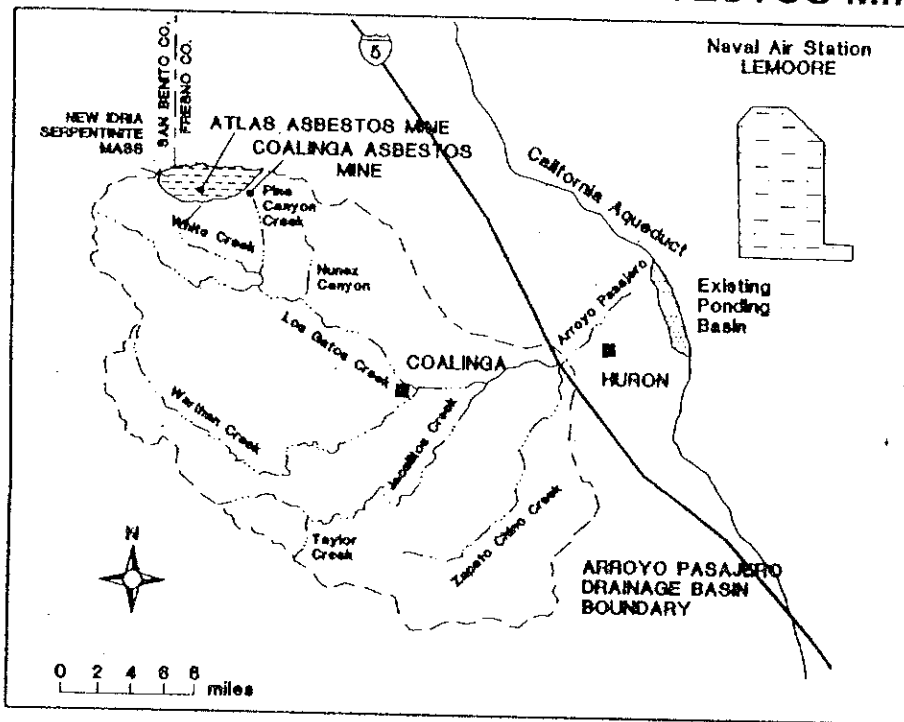


Figure 1: Atlas Site and Vicinity

- Limiting access to disturbed areas with fences or other appropriate methods,
- Conducting a revegetation pilot project to determine whether revegetation is a practical way to minimize erosion of the disturbed areas and implementing a revegetation project if the pilot is successful,
- Dismantling the mill building and disposing of the debris,
- Paving the road through the Mine Area or adopting an appropriate engineering alternative to suppress dust, and
- Placing deed restrictions on private property at the Mine Area to limit future land use and to ensure that monitoring and other operation and maintenance activities will be carried out in the future.

Operation and maintenance activities including monitoring will be required to ensure the effectiveness of the

plan. If a natural disaster, such as an earthquake or flood occurs, repairs will be made. The estimated cost to implement this plan is \$4,200,000.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected a clean-up plan to address the asbestos contamination at the Atlas Mine Area Operable Unit (The Mine Area). The Operable Unit is part of the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site (the Atlas Mine Site). On February 14, 1991, EPA's Regional Administrator signed the Record of Decision which identifies the methods EPA will use to address the contamination.

Decisions Affecting Other Areas of the Atlas Site

The Selected Clean-up Plan for the Mine Area

The Ponding Basin

EPA's selected clean-up plan for the Mine Area includes engineering and institutional controls to minimize the release of asbestos from the area. The following elements are included in the remedy:

Some of the asbestos from both disturbed and undisturbed areas in the mountains has been deposited in a flood control ponding basin near the town of Huron. EPA will not take any clean-up actions at the Ponding Basin near the California Aqueduct at this time because the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are considering actions to minimize the generation of airborne asbestos in the area. EPA will review whether the USBR and DWR actions address EPA's concerns in 1992.

- Building stream diversions to divert the stream flow away from the mine surfaces and tailings piles,
- Building sediment trapping dams to minimize the release of sediments containing asbestos,
- Stabilizing the slopes of the waste piles with minor regrading or other stabilization methods.

The Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA)

The Clear Creek Management Area (see figure 2) includes a 36 square mile area which has been designated as

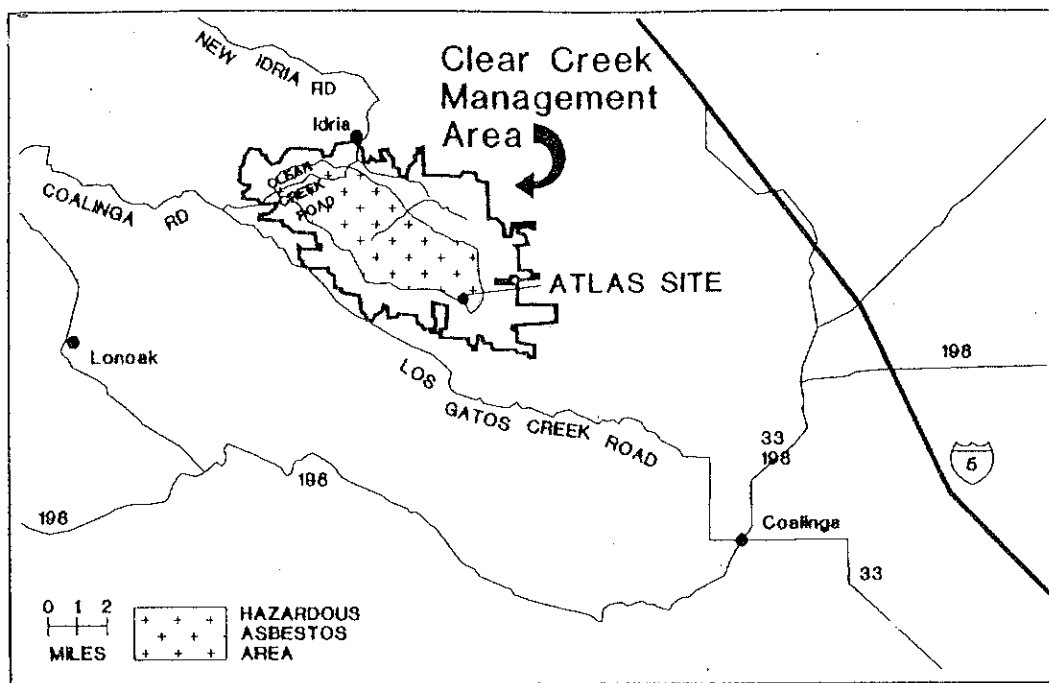


Figure 2: Clear Creek Management Area

ment on its proposed plan for the site during a 90-day comment period from April 11 through July 11, 1990. EPA received more than five hundred letters. A summary of comments received and the agency's responses to those comments can be found at the information repositories listed on page four.

Site Background

The Atlas Mine Area Operable Unit is located within a 48 square mile formation of serpentine rock known as the New Idria Formation. The Mine Area is situated on federal government and private land

a Hazardous Asbestos Area by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). EPA believes that the generation of airborne asbestos emissions by motorized vehicles being driven in the Hazardous Asbestos Area poses a significant threat to public health. EPA, however, will not take any action at the CCMA at this time.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to revise its current land use plan for the area over the next 18 to 24 months to further evaluate the potential health threats and, if necessary, make changes to their management plan that will assure adequate public health protection. The BLM will seek public input during their re-evaluation of the land use plan. In 1992, EPA will decide whether further action under the Superfund law is necessary.

EPA will be sharing its Clear Creek Management Area mailing list with BLM. If you received this fact sheet in the mail, you will probably receive any fact sheets that BLM sends out concerning the CCMA. If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be placed on the CCMA mailing list or if you do not want your name and address given to the BLM, please return the coupon on the last page to EPA immediately.

For further information on how you can get involved in the BLM land use plan revision process for the CCMA, please contact the BLM's Hollister Resource Area Office at P.O. Box 365, Hollister, CA 95023 or call (408) 637-8183.

How EPA Selected the Clean-up Plan for the Mine Area

EPA selected the methods for addressing the asbestos contamination in the Mine Area based on nine criteria, including the ability of the method to protect public health and the environment, technical feasibility, compliance with state and federal standards, cost-effectiveness, and community acceptance. EPA invited the public to com-

and lies 18 miles northwest of Coalinga, California. BLM's Clear Creek Management Area includes the Mine Area as well as a large portion of the New Idria Formation. The Mine Area itself includes three open pit asbestos mine surfaces, stockpiles of asbestos waste material, an abandoned mill building, and debris.

Asbestos mining and milling at the Atlas Mine occurred from 1967 to 1979. In 1980, elevated levels of asbestos were detected in water samples from the California Aqueduct near Los Angeles. Subsequent investigations identified the Atlas Mine as a source of waterborne asbestos in the California Aqueduct and as a probable source of airborne asbestos in the surrounding area. In September 1983, the Atlas Mine site was proposed for the Superfund National Priorities List, a list of the nation's most serious hazardous waste sites.

Related Clean-Up Activities

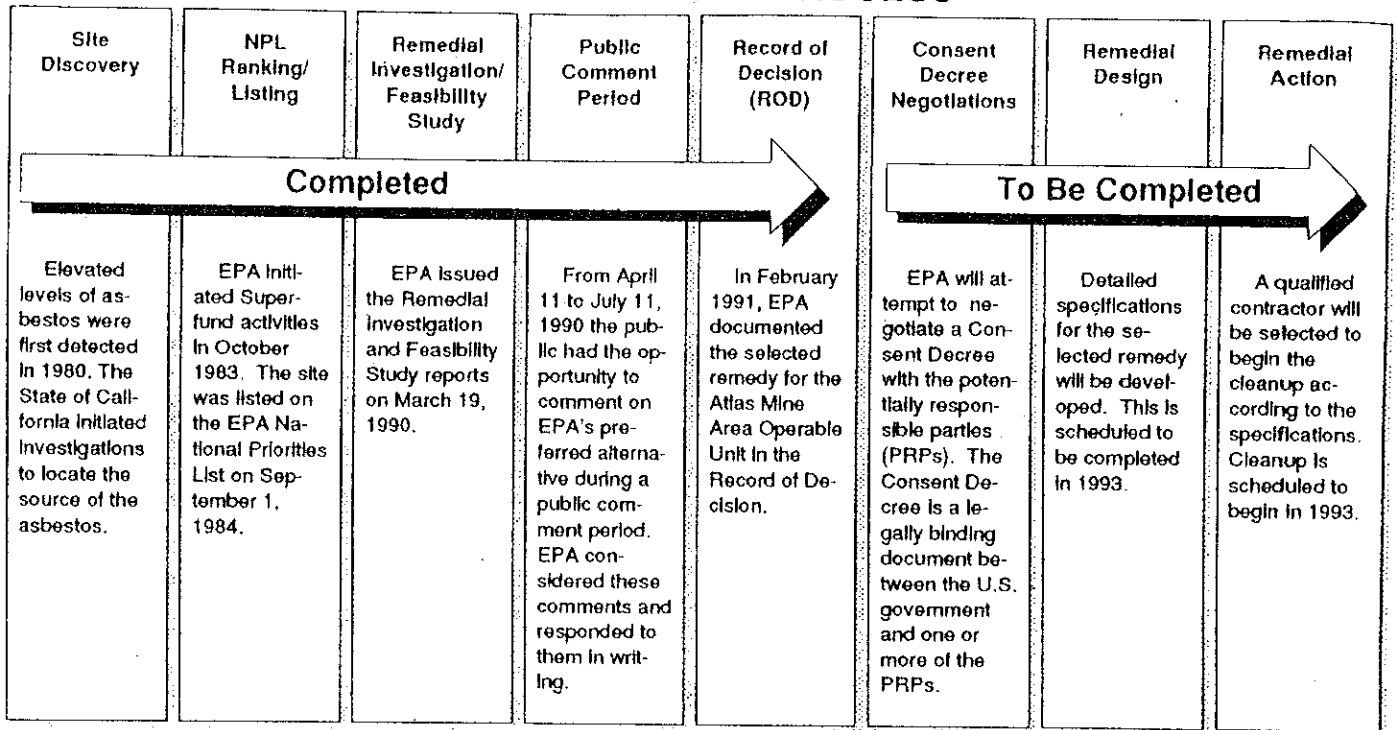
City of Coalinga

During the investigations of the Coalinga Asbestos Mine and Atlas Asbestos Mine sites, asbestos was discovered in the City of Coalinga. This asbestos had been brought from the sites and other sources to a depot in Coalinga for eventual shipment out of Coalinga by rail and truck. This asbestos is concentrated in a 107-acre parcel of land in the southern part of Coalinga. Cleanup of the asbestos in Coalinga began in February 1990 and is currently underway as a separate clean-up action. The clean-up is scheduled to be completed by June 1991.

Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund Site

EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for a part of the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund Site on September 21, 1990. The Coalinga Asbestos Mine Site is located three miles from the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site. Al-

THE SUPERFUND PROCESS



though there are similarities between the two sites, they are separate Superfund sites. A fact sheet describing the ROD for the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Operable Unit is available from Kivi Leroux-Duncan, Community Relations Coordinator (see page 4).

Next Steps

Now that a clean-up plan has been selected, EPA will enter negotiations with the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) in an effort to reach an agreement called a Consent Decree. The Consent Decree is a legally binding agreement between the United States government and one or more of the PRPs to carry out the remedies specified in the ROD and described in this fact sheet. If a Consent Decree is negotiated, it will be available for public comment before it is entered in the federal court.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

EPA will keep you updated on the progress of the design and implementation of the clean-up plan by issuing fact sheets as new information becomes available. You can help EPA by:

- Staying informed. Several information repositories have been established and will be updated regularly with site documents. See the next page for addresses.
- Participating in the revision of the Community Relations Plan. In the next year, EPA will evaluate the methods it has used to communicate with communities affected by the Atlas site and will revise its plan to better serve the communities.

Continued Page 4

MAILING LIST COUPON

Return to: Kivi Leroux-Duncan, Office of Community Relations (H-1-1), U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Please add/delete (circle one) my name from EPA's CCMA/Atlas Asbestos Mine Site mailing list.

Name: _____

Organization (if any): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

I do not wish to receive information from BLM. Do not give my name and address to them.

From Page 3

If you are interested in participating in the planning process for the Clear Creek Management Area, please contact the BLM's Hollister Resource Area Office at P.O. Box 365, Hollister, CA 95023 or call (408) 637-8183.

For More Information

EPA issued a fact sheet in April 1990 explaining the alternatives for cleaning up this site, including the alternative EPA preferred. EPA has now selected that plan with modifications suggested by the public and the po-

tentially responsible parties during the public comment period. If you would like a copy of the fact sheet or any other information about the site, please call or write:

Kivi Leroux-Duncan
Community Relations Coordinator (H-1-1)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2182

or leave a message at 1-800-231-3075

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

EPA maintains five information repositories for the Atlas Asbestos Mine site that contain project documents, fact sheets, and other reference materials. In addition, the Coalinga District Library holds the Administrative Record file for the site which contains the documents relied on by EPA in selection of a clean-up plan for the the site. EPA encourages you to review these documents to gain a more complete understanding of the activities at the site.

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

Huron City Hall
36311 Lassen Ave.
Huron, CA 93234
(209) 945-2241

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

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

San Jose Main Library
180 W. San Carlos St.
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 277-4815

Ask the reference librarian for the EPA documents related to the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site. Site documents may also be reviewed by appointment at EPA's regional office, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Please call (415) 744-2182 to make an appointment.

United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9

75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Kivi Leroux-Duncan

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