



U.S. EPA

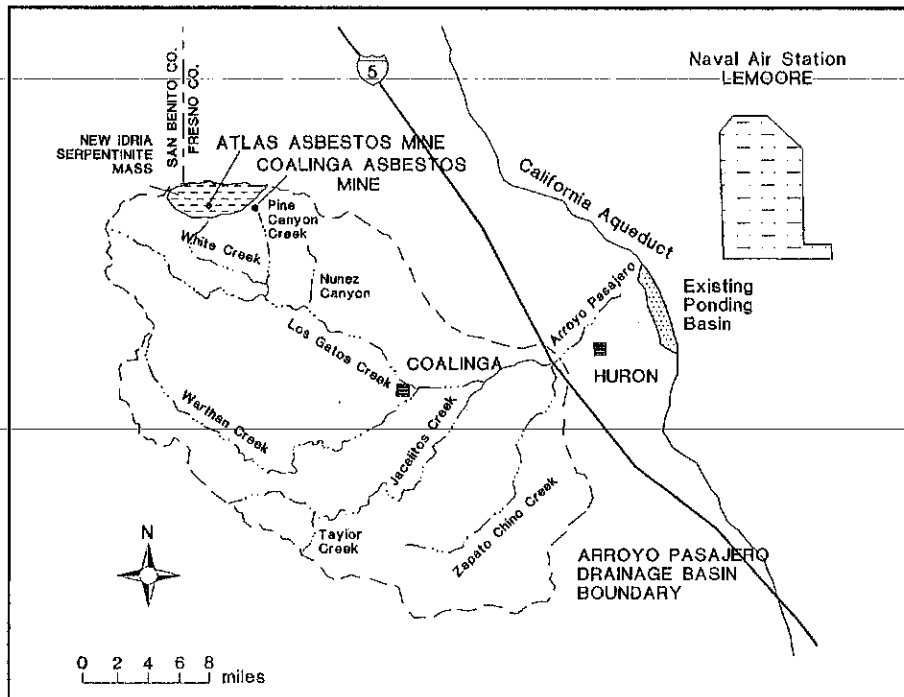
# COALINGA ASBESTOS MINE SUPERFUND SITE

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco

Coalinga, CA

November 1990

## EPA SELECTS CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR AN OPERABLE UNIT OF THE COALINGA ASBESTOS MINE SITE



- Building a cross canyon stream diversion to divert the stream flow away from the tailings pile,
- Improving the existing sediment trapping dam to minimize the release of asbestos into Pine Canyon Creek,
- Installing fences around the perimeter of the mine and around the disturbed areas to limit access to the area,
- Implementing a revegetation pilot project to determine whether revegetation is a practical way to minimize erosion of the disturbed areas,
- Dismantling the mill building and disposing of the debris,
- Paving the road through the Mill Area or adopting an appropriate engineering alternative to suppress dust, and

### *EPA Signs a Record of Decision*

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved final plans to address the asbestos contamination at the Johns-Manville Coalinga Asbestos Mill Area Operable Unit (JM Mill OU). The JM Mill OU is a part of the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund site. On September 21, 1990, EPA's Regional Administrator signed the Record of Decision which identifies the methods EPA will use to address the contamination.

### *The Selected Clean-up Plan*

#### The JM Mill Area

EPA's selected clean-up plan for the JM Mill OU includes minimizing the release of the asbestos from the mill area and restricting access to the area by:

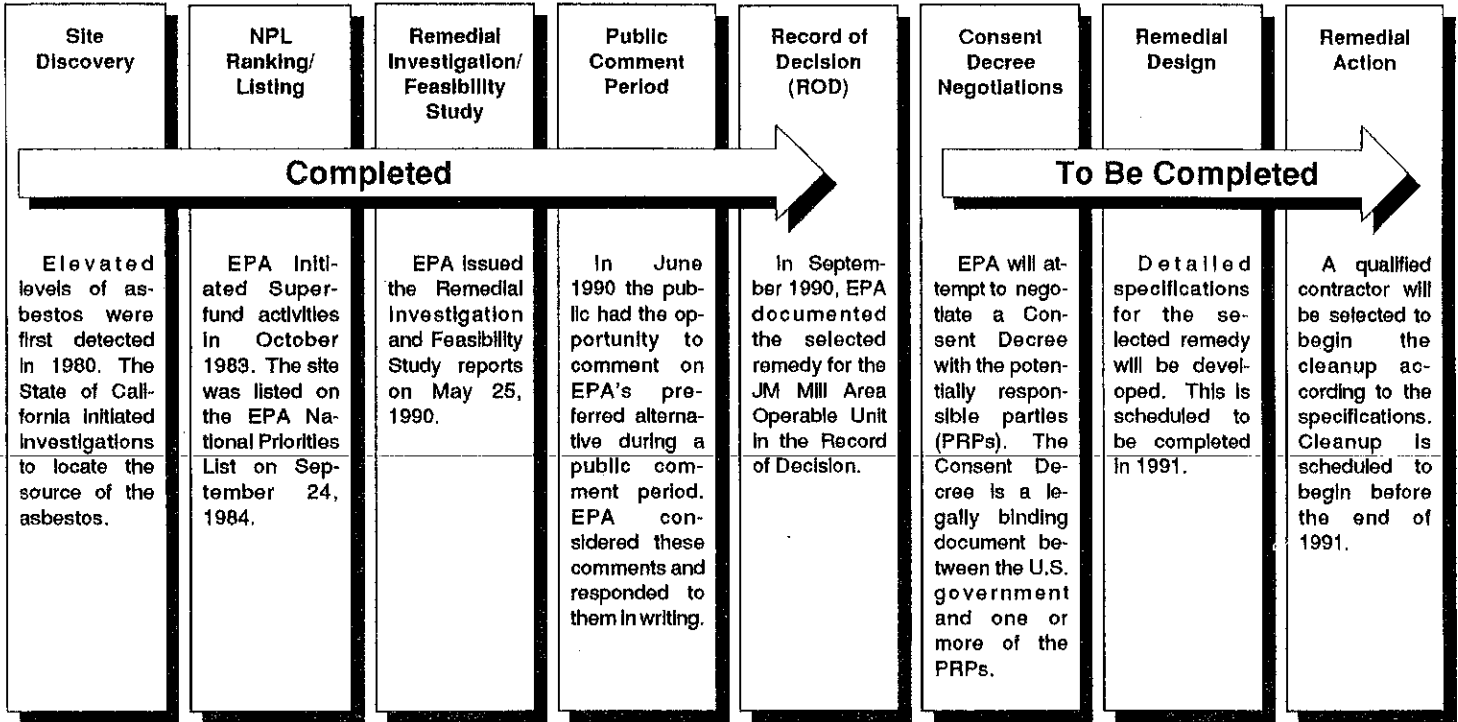
- Placing deed restrictions on the property to limit future land use and to ensure that monitoring and other operation and maintenance activities will be carried out in the future.

Operation and maintenance activities will be necessary 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 \$1,800,000.

#### The Ponding Basin

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

# THE SUPERFUND PROCESS



generation of airborne asbestos in the area. EPA will review the adequacy of USBR and DWR actions in 1992.

### *How EPA Selected the Clean-up Plan*

EPA selected the methods for addressing the asbestos contamination 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 comment on its proposed plan for the site during a 30-day comment period in June 1990. A summary of comments received and the agency's responses to those comments can be found at the information repositories listed on page 3.

### *Site Background*

The JM Mill OU is approximately 17 miles northwest of Coalinga and is located on 557 acres of privately owned land. The JM Mill OU is approximately one-half mile below a 48-square-mile formation of serpentine rock (the New Idria Formation) that contains large amounts of naturally occurring asbestos. The JM Mill OU includes asbestos tailings, an abandoned mill building, and an inactive chromite mine known as the Railroad Mine. A road used by local ranchers runs through the JM Mill OU. It is accessible only through

a locked gate. It is approximately three miles from the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund site.

Asbestos milling at the JM Mill OU occurred from approximately 1962 until mid-1974. In the early 1960's, a stream diversion was constructed to channel run-off away from the main asbestos tailings pile. This was done to reduce erosion and the transport of the asbestos. A sediment trapping dam was also constructed below the tailings pile to restrict transport of the asbestos. In 1980, elevated levels of asbestos were measured in water samples from the California Aqueduct near Los Angeles. Subsequent investigations identified the JM Mill OU, and other natural and disturbed areas, as potential sources of airborne asbestos in the surrounding area. In September 1983, the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Site was proposed for the National Priorities List, a list of the most serious hazardous waste sites in the nation.

### *Related Clean-Up Activities*

#### City of Coalinga

During the investigations of the Coalinga and Atlas Asbestos Mine sites, asbestos was discovered in the City of Coalinga. This asbestos had been shipped from these 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 17-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.

#### Next Steps

Now that a clean-up plan has been selected, EPA will enter negotiations with the potentially responsible parties 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.

#### Atlas Asbestos Company Superfund Site

Later this year, EPA will issue a Record of Decision for the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund site, a site located three miles from the Johns-Manville Mill Area Operable Unit. Although there are similarities between the two sites, they are separate Superfund sites. The Clear Creek Management Area is considered part of the Atlas Asbestos Mine site.

#### Opportunities for Community Involvement

EPA will keep you updated on the progress of the design and implementation of the clean-up plan. Activities in the next year will include:

- o issuing fact sheets when new information is available,
- o updating the information repositories (see below) with the latest site documents and,
- o revising the Community Relations Plan to evaluate the ways that EPA communicates with the affected communities and addresses their concerns.

#### For More Information

EPA issued a fact sheet in May 1990 explaining the alternatives for cleaning up this site; EPA has now selected the preferred alternative with minor modifications in response to comments. If you would like a copy of the fact sheet or any other information about the site, please call or write:

Kivi Leroux  
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 four information repositories in the greater Coalinga areas 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 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

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# EPA Selects a Clean-up Plan for the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Area

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United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA Region 9

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

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**INSIDE: EPA Selects a Clean-up  
Plan for the Coalinga Asbestos  
Mine Area**