



U.S. EPA

# Coalinga Superfund Site

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

Coalinga, CA

February 1990

## Cleanup Activities Will Soon Begin in Coalinga, California

Cleanup of asbestos and nickel contaminated waste at the city of Coalinga Superfund site will begin on February 19, 1990. The contaminated soil will be excavated and buried in a waste management unit (WMU, see next page for more details on the WMU). Southern Pacific Transportation Company, the lead potentially responsible party, will be conducting the cleanup activities with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) oversight.

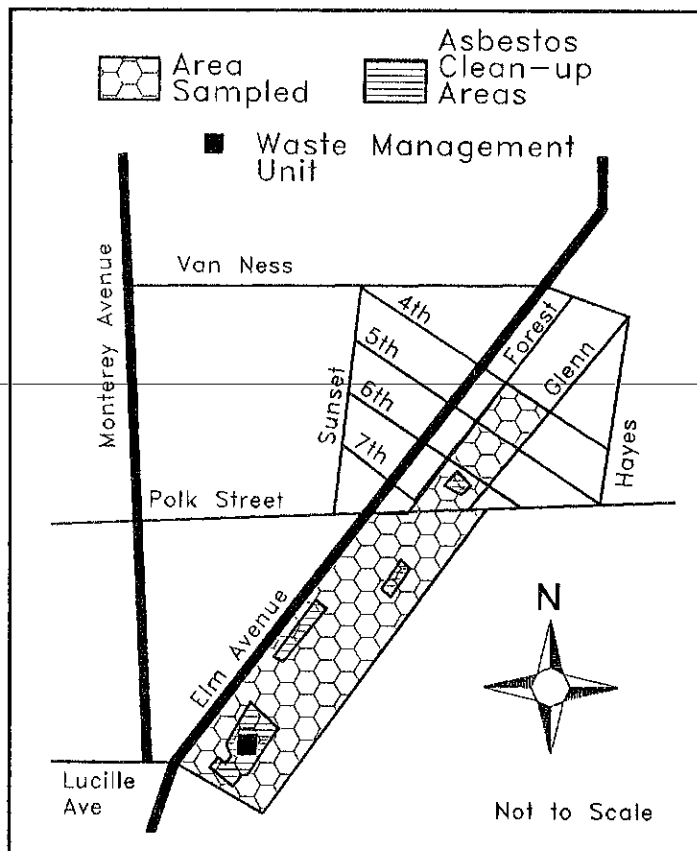
### Protection of Public Health

Prior to and during the cleanup operations, air samples will be taken around the excavation sites to ensure that the public is not exposed to asbestos fibers blown off-site. Dust containing asbestos will be suppressed by wetting the soils before and during cleanup activities. Exposed asbestos piles will be wetted and covered as necessary to minimize airborne asbestos.

Routine precautions are required by federal law for the on-site workers who are regularly exposed to many different hazardous materials. Workers who are conducting the cleanup activities at the site will be wearing protective clothing and respirators as part of these precautions.

### Cleanup Activities

**Preliminary steps:** The first stage of the cleanup will be a two week air monitoring program. Next, the site will be securely fenced and trailers will be set up for office facilities. Trailers will also contain decontamination facilities to ensure that on-site



workers do not transport asbestos off-site.

**Soil Excavation and Sampling:** Excavation of contaminated soils will begin at the north end of the site. The asbestos and nickel contaminated soils will then be stockpiled near the waste management unit (WMU) and clean soil will be used to fill in the excavated areas.

The asbestos contaminated soil will be removed from varying depths of two inches to two feet, until sampling shows that one percent (or less) asbestos remains in the soil. The technology that

will be used is polarized light microscopy, a method designed to measure asbestos levels in soil and rock samples. EPA will oversee this sampling as well as all other cleanup actions.

**Waste Management Unit:** The asbestos contaminated soils will be placed in a WMU near Elm and Lucille Avenues (see map). The WMU is a completely enclosed underground vault designed to prevent the escape of asbestos and nickel from the unit. After the WMU is filled, it will be covered with an impermeable cap, which will then be land-scaped.

**Street Closures:** During cleanup activities, Polk Street may be temporarily closed off in order to allow trucks transporting the soil easy access to the WMU during excavation operations. These activities will be coordinated with Coalinga city officials in order to minimize disruption.

**Scheduled Completion:** Cleanup is scheduled to be completed by September 1990.

## For More Information

If you have any question or concerns about the cleanup activities or would like to be added to our permanent mailing list, please leave a message for:

Debbie Lowe  
Community Relations Coordinator  
1-800-231-3075

We will return your call as soon as possible.

In addition to the cleanup activities, we are in the process of evaluating our communication efforts. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our efforts, please call us.

United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9

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Attn: Debbie Lowe

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