

United States Department of the Interior

cc: to Bob Lawton BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825

wo 680

Bob.

Atlas Papers

1983  
10/20

10/19  
(C-932.7)

Talk to Sherry

OCT 21 1983

Memorandum

To: State Director  
From: Deputy State Director, Lands and Renewable Resources  
Subject: Meeting with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the Atlas Asbestos Mine

The subject meeting was held in San Francisco at the Region 9 Office of the EPA.

Bob Rheimer, Kirby Kline, Dave Howell, Marta Witt of the Bakersfield office and Buz Kennedy and Lois Payne of my staff represented the Bureau; Keith Takata, Richard Martyn, Kathy Kenworthy represented EPA and Harlan Agnew represented EPA's regional counsel.

The attached agenda gave both agencies ample opportunity to present their current status on their respective programs and legal mandates. Then the group shared information on the Atlas site.

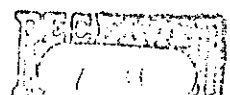
EPA explained that a federal register notice was required for a 60 day comment period for a site to get on the Superfund list. The Atlas Mine notice was announced as of September 1, 1983. This leaves us until October 30 to comment on this proposal. (Sept 8, 1983 AFR #15) 40679 Group 4

It was apparent that EPA was somewhat embarrassed that the Bureau, as the landowner, had never been notified of problems with the Atlas site. They volunteered to have a second "kickoff" meeting with their contractor (CH2M Hill) to insure that our staff had ample opportunity to make input to the contractor in the early phase; they also want input as to concerned publics that we feel should be invited to this "kickoff".

It was agreed by both agencies to work closely together from this point forward. The following actions are direct outcomes of this meeting.

1. EPA will set up a meeting/site visit between CH2M Hill and Hollister office on October 20.
2. A site specific MOU (or agreement letter) will be drafted outlining what each agency is expected to do.

what are we commenting to?



3. BLM, Bakersfield DO, will provide comments on the federal register notice currently proposing the Atlas Mine site be added to the National Priority List of Hazardous Waste Sites (Superfund List).
4. BLM State Office will initiate a meeting between the Tri Agency Group (BLM, NPS, USFS) and EPA, to bring the other land managers up to speed on the Superfund program.  
*are we accepting third party liability?*
5. EPA will set up a "Kick Off 2" meeting between the contractor, BLM, EPA, and any concerned publics that should be involved, this will be negotiated between EPA and the District Office.
6. BLM, Hollister Resource Area Office, will provide a list of concerned publics to EPA.
7. BLM, SO, will provide a phone directory with numbers of responsible personnel in California.
8. BLM, SO, will provide EPA with a draft copy of the Hazardous Waste Program White Paper for their comment.
9. EPA will provide BLM with a schedule of their contractors upcoming actions concerning the Atlas Mine.

*owned  
what will  
we be  
committing to*

*\*  
before us*

EPA was pleased that we were willing to coordinate and cooperate with them. We were assured that land status will be checked on sites at a much earlier stage in the process to avoid future problems like this. EPA also assured us that should the Atlas site not be listed as a Superfund site the funds spent to date would be absorbed by their agency.

A copy of the Toxics and Waste Management Division is also enclosed..

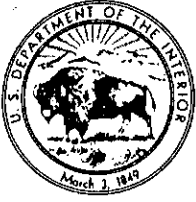
*/s/* RICHARD F. JOHNSON

Enclosures (2)

cc: WO 680

DM, Bakersfield  
AM, Hollister RA  
EPA Regional Office

*\* Do we want a Regional EPA office commenting on a yet uncodified National Resource Policy Doc. HQ BLM & EPA.*



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

3809  
(C-932)

OCT 17 1983

Memorandum

To: Director (690)

From: State Director

Subject: Designated Hazardous Waste Site by EPA as a Superfund Site,  
Atlas Asbestos Mine

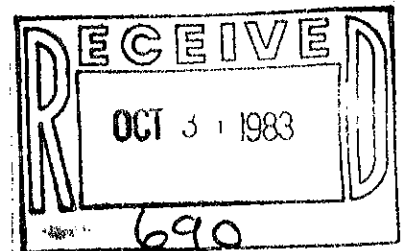
The enclosed report includes information on the Atlas Asbestos Mine, whose tailings are on public lands. The Mine site is in the National Superfund list for study and cleanup by EPA. The site is in the Coalinga Area, Hollister Resource Area, Bakersfield District Office. The National Superfund list is prepared by EPA to identify the sites where critical hazardous waste materials are having or may have immediate adverse effects on human health and therefore demand attention and cleanup.

We have contacted the EPA and will meet with them concerning this site on October 13, 1983. The intent of our meeting will be to assure BLM's involvement in site specific actions now underway, or that are proposed. We will keep you informed on the results of our meeting and what actions we will take. If you have any questions please contact either Buz Kennedy, Chief, Branch of Biological Resources or Lois Payne, SO Air and Hazardous Waste Coordinator.

*Ed Hartney*

Enclosure

cc: WO 101  
WO 200  
DSD, Mineral Resources  
DM, Bakersfield





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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY  
REFER TO.

*10/3*  
*Dist - Let's follow*  
*up on this. I would*  
*like periodic status*  
*reports. Are we*  
*OK on other hazard*  
*waste sites -*  
*Es*

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 super fund site.*

Atlas Asbestos Mine

Location: T. 18S, R 13E, 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 Coalinga 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 CH<sub>2</sub> 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. *we should also check if material that is a slag and some waste piles*
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: *None of these we still need to work out*

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.

cc: DM, Bakersfield  
AM, Hollister RA  
P A (staed)



Publicity Record

Newspaper and Location COALINGA RECORD, COALINGA, CA Publication Date 9-7-83

Submitting Office Bakersfield District - HOLLISTER RESOURCE AREA



*RES*  
*Then a what I*  
*have asked about -*  
*see also on JUL*

### E.P.A. Wants To Clean Up Coalinga Asbestos Mines

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced its plans to take control of two Coalinga area asbestos mines - Coalinga Mining Company, and Atlas Asbestos Company - as part of a cleaning up of eight California sites which will be involved in a federal Superfund to wipe out hazardous wastes.

EPA spokesman, Terry Wilson said the locations will be included in a national priority list of cleanups. Soil and water testings in 1980, according to the EPA, lead to the cleanup decision by the government agency. There were reports that asbestos was seeping into the California Aqueduct, a source of Coalinga's drinking water.

*Added to assignment*