

## Memorandum

To: State Director, California

From: Director

Subject: Designation of BLM as Responsible Party for the Atlas Asbestos  
National Priority List Site

In August, the State Office informed WO that you would be meeting with EPA Region 9 regarding potential designation of the Bureau as the Responsible Party for the Atlas Asbestos Mine National Priority List (NPL) site, near Coalinga, CA.

As a result, WO Hazardous Materials Staff consulted with the Department of Justice Environmental Defense Section on the case. They are quite willing to assist the Bureau to limit the costs to those problems for which the Bureau has actual liability. They would like a copy or other any letters, memos of written material on the designation, provided to you by EPA, as well as a copy of your meeting report.

Because the potential scale of the costs associated with this NPL site can be in the tens of millions of dollars, we are concerned that we begin quickly to develop the legal, public affairs and funding strategies that will be needed to deal with the Atlas site.

If you wish the Hazardous Materials Staff will work with your staff to pull together a conference to help develop such strategies. This should probably include at least WO Budget and External Affairs, and the Department of Justice, as well as Regional Solicitors Office and Field Staff. This meeting can help to identify and plan State Office and other Bureau roles and activities now required under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986.

If you have questions on this please contact Bernie Hyde at FTS 343-5517.

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cc:  
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