Reported Historic Asbestos Mines, Historic Asbestos Prospects, and Natural Asbestos Occurrences in the Rocky Mountain States of the United States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming)

By Bradley S. Van Gosen

2007

Introduction

This report and the accompanying digital datasets identify the locations of asbestos deposits, historic asbestos mines, and historic asbestos prospects in the Rocky Mountain States of the United States. The datasets include information for asbestos deposits, historic asbestos mines, and historic asbestos prospects. The datasets are designed to be used by federal and state agencies, as well as the public, to inform decision-making related to asbestos and public health.

The datasets are available for download from the U.S. Geological Survey website. They include geographic information system (GIS) data, as well as spreadsheets containing detailed information about each asbestos deposit, historic mine, and prospect.

Geologic Setting

The Rocky Mountain States are characterized by a diverse geologic setting that includes mountain ranges, river valleys, and plains. The geology of the region includes a variety of rock types, such as metamorphic rocks, igneous rocks, and sedimentary rocks. These rock types have been subjected to various tectonic processes, such as folding, faulting, and metamorphism, which have led to the formation of mineral deposits, including asbestos.

Natural Asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used in various applications for centuries. It is a fibrous mineral that is composed of hydrated magnesium silicate. The fibrous nature of asbestos makes it desirable for use in various applications, such as insulation, roofing, and textiles. However, the health risks associated with asbestos exposure have led to its regulation and restriction in many countries.

Indigenous Asbestos

Indigenous asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used in various applications for centuries. It is a fibrous mineral that is composed of hydrated magnesium silicate. The fibrous nature of asbestos makes it desirable for use in various applications, such as insulation, roofing, and textiles. However, the health risks associated with asbestos exposure have led to its regulation and restriction in many countries.


References


Contribution of science to risk-management applications: Environmental & Engineering Geoscience, v. 13, no. 1, p. 55-68.