Reported Historic Asbestos Mines, Historic Asbestos Prospects, and Other Natural Occurrences of Asbestos in Oregon and Washington

By Bradley S. Van Gosen

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Introduction

This report and accompanying database (http://www.usgs.gov/oregon-asbestos) are intended to be a comprehensive inventory of past and present asbestos sites in Oregon and Washington. The information in this report is intended for use by local and state governments, agencies, and organizations related to health and safety issues of asbestos workers and the public. The information is also intended for users of the report to determine the asbestos mineralogical and geological associations of asbestos deposits.

The database of asbestos sites is maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Portland Field Office. The database contains data on asbestos mines, prospects, occurrences, and sites. The database is updated as new information becomes available.

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a group of fibrous minerals that occur naturally. The principal asbestos minerals are serpentine (chrysotile) and fibrous amphiboles (amphibole). These minerals are known for their ability to withstand high temperatures and resist chemical attack. Asbestos is used in a variety of products, such as insulation, roofing materials, and construction materials. The use of asbestos has been linked to health problems, including lung cancer and mesothelioma. Asbestos fibers can enter the body through inhalation and remain in the body for a long time, potentially causing health problems. Asbestos is considered a carcinogenic agent, and its use is regulated in many countries.

Fibrous Amphiboles in the Northeastern States

During the past century, several mines were opened in the northeastern United States to mine asbestos. These mines produced a variety of asbestos minerals, including chrysotile and amphibole. The most significant of these mines were located in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The asbestos mines in these states were关闭ed in the 1950s and 1960s due to decreased demand for asbestos and increased awareness of its health risks. However, asbestos fibers from these mines continue to be found in the environment, and the sites are still considered to be hazardous.

Digital Databases

The database contains detailed information on each asbestos site, including location, mineralogy, geology, and other relevant data. The database is available online, and users can search for sites using a variety of criteria, such as location, mineralogy, or other characteristics.

References


A number of United States governmental regulations address worker exposure to asbestos. These regulations are intended to protect workers from the health risks associated with asbestos exposure. Key regulations include the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (1986), which requires take-down, encasement, or containment of asbestos-containing material, and the Asbestos Abatement, Management, and Control Program (1991), which establishes procedures for asbestos removal and disposal.

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral that occurs naturally and is often found in soil, rock, and water. It is used in a variety of products, including construction materials, roofing materials, and insulating materials. Asbestos is known for its ability to withstand high temperatures and resist chemical attack. However, asbestos fibers can enter the body through inhalation and remain in the body for a long time, potentially causing health problems. Asbestos is considered a carcinogenic agent, and its use is regulated in many countries.