

1100.50 DISPOSAL OF CONSTRUCTION WASTES

1100.51 ASBESTOS

Asbestos is the name for a group of natural minerals that separate into strong, fine fibers. The fibers are heat-resistant and extremely durable. There are a number of different types of asbestos including Chrysotile, Amosite, Crocidolite, Anthophyllite, Actinolite, and Tremolite. The typical size of asbestos fibers is from 0.1 to 10 micrometers. This makes them usually invisible to the human eye. Because of their fine size, they can remain suspended in air for hours when disturbed. This increases the possibility of human exposure via inhalation.

Health Concerns

Medical studies have shown that the primary exposure route for asbestos is through inhalation. The following diseases can result from inhalation of asbestos fibers:

- Asbestosis - A noncancerous respiratory disease that consists of scarring of lung tissue
- Lung Cancer
- Mesothelioma - A rare cancer of the thin membrane lining of the chest and abdomen
- Other Cancers - Some studies have suggested that exposure to asbestos is responsible for some cancers of internal organs such as esophagus, larynx, stomach, colon, and kidney.

Asbestos Removal

U.S. EPA regulates the removal of asbestos containing material from facilities which are being demolished or renovated. EPA regulations for removal, and subsequent disposal, are set forth in 40 CFR 61. Generally speaking, the following procedures must be followed:

- For all facilities, U.S. EPA must be notified prior to renovation or demolition. This notification must include an estimate of the approximate amount of regulated asbestos containing material to be handled. For the NDR, this notification is handled through the Project Development Office.
- Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material (RACM) must be removed prior to any activities that would disturb the materials or prevent future access to them for removal.
- When RACM has been removed, it must be contained in a leak-proof wrapping or bag and properly labeled for disposal.
- All asbestos removal and handling operations must be performed under the supervision of an individual trained and certified in asbestos handling.
- U.S. DOT regulates the transportation of asbestos and identifies it as a hazardous material. Before accepting RACM for transportation, a transporter must ensure that

wastes, some form of manifesting is required. For "nonhazardous" paint wastes (waste with leachable levels below those listed above), *Supplemental Specifications* states:

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"Accumulated wastes shall not be removed from the temporary storage area without proper documentation."

This **notice of disposition** has been standardized and is used as NDR's internal manifest of material being shipped.

The contract documents will identify an NDR facility which has been designated as the "RECEIVING FACILITY." Currently, for construction projects only (not maintenance projects) this is the central complex at Lincoln, Nebraska. There has been a fenced facility designated for storage of nonhazardous paint, which is located at the NDR Maintenance Facility in Lincoln.