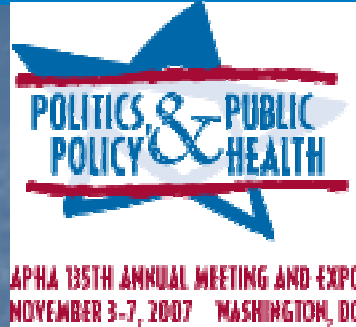




American Public Health Association



# Environmental Asbestos Contamination: *Precautionary Approaches for Naturally Occurring and Man-Made Pollution*

Abstract #152135

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# When Is Asbestos Toxic?

- What should we count?
- Amphibole Asbestos
- "Other Amphiboles"
- Fiber Size >5 microns
- Fiber Width <0.4 microns
- Airborne Exposure Pathway
- Activity-based Assessment

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# Outdated Asbestos Risk Data

- Previous Asbestos Risk Models Never Evaluated Real Asbestos Risk
- “Old School” Risk Tools Used:
  - 1% or less did not represent a risk
  - OSHA exposure levels at 0.1 fibers/cc
  - Background levels at 0.01 fibers/cc
  - AHERA clearance levels of <70 structures/mm<sup>2</sup>
- These criteria do not evaluate risk

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# IRIS Risk Model Outdated

- The model is currently being revised
- Over-estimates chrysotile toxicity
- Severely under-estimates amphibole toxicity by as much as 800 times
- Does not consider “other” amphibole minerals
- Public Health representatives from CDC/ATSDR, State Agencies, County Agencies, and Universities are selling out public health to political funding sources

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# Outdated IRIS Risk Model

- Based on Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) fiber counting
- Most risk assessments substitute TEM results using various counting rules which manipulates and/or skews results
- Public Health Assessments are no long valid putting the public at risk

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# Past Studies Discredited

- New Jersey assessments found invalid in October 2007
- Libby clean-up not based on risk
- El Dorado Hills assessment challenged
- Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline studies found to be rigged by state and feds

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# Public Health Professionals Feign Risk Assessments

- Use Non-Risk Based Data
- Invalid Data Taken at Face Value
- Uncertainties Downplayed
- New Studies Designed to Cover-up Previously Flawed Studies
- Data and Risk Models are Skewed to Support Pre-Conceived Findings

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# Public Health Officials Must be Held Accountable for Their Actions

- CDC/ATSDR must admit past errors and immediately correct PHA's
- State Public Health Agencies must avoid political influences and "rubber-stamping" invalid data used to evaluate risk
- University Public Health studies must not be influenced by funding sources including CDC/ATSDR and State Public Health Dept.

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# Practice What You Preach

- Transparency
- Public Involvement
- Peer Reviewed Data
- Quality Control
- Establish Protocols and Stick to Them
- Justify Findings and Recommendations

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# Precautionary Approaches

- Educate the Public about the uncertainties of past and current risk assessments
- Keep children out of areas where amphibole asbestos fibers are present
- Evaluate activities including “tracking” activities resulting in take-home exposures
- When in doubt, Keep People Out!

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