

Oroville Dam Spillway Naturally Occurring Asbestos Status Report 2/19/2020 (FINAL)

1. For information on naturally occurring asbestos: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/asbestos/reginfo.htm>.
2. Because of the confirmation of the presence of naturally occurring asbestos in the project area, the site is subject to a state regulation “Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations” (ATCM): <https://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/atcm/asb2atcm.htm>. The ATCM required the DWR develop and implement a dust mitigation plan and to monitor the quantity of airborne asbestos fibers released from construction activities. The plan was approved by the Butte County Air Quality Management District (District).
3. During the active project time frame (March 15, 2017 through January 27, 2020), DWR monitored for asbestos, typically through the use of seven (7) monitors which sampled for ambient levels of asbestos on the work zone perimeter 24-hours a day. The District approved the DWR’s request to terminate monitoring following the completion of major construction work on the site. Dust mitigation requirements outlined in the ATCM still apply at the site.
4. In order to protect public health, a work-zone perimeter-community action level of 0.005 asbestos structures per cubic centimeter (s/cc) was selected for this project based on guidance from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control for asbestos remediation at school sites. If monitoring showed an exceedance of the action level, the DWR was required to evaluate the frequency and extent of dust control measures and take action to reduce dust and asbestos levels in the air. The action levels were intended to be used as a trigger to implement additional dust suppression efforts as necessary to protect public health.
5. Because the asbestos air monitoring samples must be analyzed by a laboratory, which takes several days to complete, DWR also conducted real-time air monitoring of dust levels in the work areas and on the work zone perimeter. If dust levels exceeded action levels, a visual alarm was triggered to alert site workers that additional dust suppression was necessary. Alarms were also sent to the project management team to mobilize additional resources, as necessary, to help control dust.
6. During the project, District staff conducted periodic compliance inspections at the site. For information on air quality reported near the Oroville Dam Spillway site, including the DWR Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan and bi-weekly reports, see: <http://bcaqmd.org/special-monitoring-oroville-dam-spillway-repair/>
7. The effectiveness of the efforts to minimize asbestos exposures should be judged by looking at the measured levels of asbestos over time compared to the action level. Isolated exceedances of the action level do not mean there was unhealthful air quality in the community.
8. Preliminary and final asbestos monitoring data received by the District, representing the period of March 15, 2017 through January 27, 2020, indicates the following:
 - a. Total samples collected: 18,353
 - b. Total samples with non-detects for asbestos: 15,556
 - c. Total samples with asbestos detected less than action level: 2,613
 - d. Total samples excluded due to equipment failures: 79
 - e. Total samples with asbestos detection greater than action level: 86
9. Contact the District at (530) 332-9400 for more information or go to the District’s website at <https://bcaqmd.org/special-monitoring-oroville-dam-spillway-repair/> to review air monitoring results.