1633-92424

EPA

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
SITE INSPECTION REPORT

REGION	SITE NUMBER (to be assigned by Hq)
9	2260

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Complete Sections I and III through XV of this form as completely as possible. Then use the information on this form to develop a Tentative Disposition (*Section II*). File this form in its entirety in the regional Hazardous Waste Log File. Be sure to include all appropriate Supplemental Reports in the file. Submit a copy of the forms to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Site Tracking System; Hazardous Waste Enforcement Tack Force (*EN-335*); 401 M St., SW; Washington, DC 20460.

I. SITE IDENTIFICATION

A. SITE NAME: Atlas Asbestos Company

B. STREET (or other identifier): Los Gatos Creek Rd.

C. CITY: Coalinga

D. STATE: CA

E. ZIP CODE: 93210

F. COUNTY NAME: Fresno

G. SITE OPERATOR INFORMATION

1. NAME: Atlas Asbestos (subsidiary of Wheeler Properties)

2. TELEPHONE NUMBER: NONE

3. STREET: 940 West Elm Ave

4. CITY: Coalinga

5. STATE: CA

6. ZIP CODE: 93210

H. REALTY OWNER INFORMATION (if different from operator of site)

1. NAME: Wheeler Properties, Inc.

2. TELEPHONE NUMBER: NONE LISTED

3. CITY: 2360 Lancelot, Reno

4. STATE: NV

5. ZIP CODE: 89509

I. SITE DESCRIPTION: Asbestos mines, mill and tailings pile

J. TYPE OF OWNERSHIP

☐ 1. FEDERAL ☐ 2. STATE ☐ 3. COUNTY ☐ 4. MUNICIPAL ☒ 5. PRIVATE

II. TENTATIVE DISPOSITION (complete this section last)

A. ESTIMATE DATE OF TENTATIVE DISPOSITION (mo., day, & yr.): 8/22/80

B. APPARENT SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM

☐ 1. HIGH ☒ 2. MEDIUM ☐ 3. LOW ☐ 4. NONE

C. PREPARER INFORMATION

1. NAME: Judy Steenhoven

2. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (415) 556-2354

3. DATE (mo., day, & yr.): 8/20/80

III. INSPECTION INFORMATION

A. PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR INFORMATION

1. NAME: Kenneth D. Greenberg, Richard Vaille

2. TITLE: Environmental Engineers

3. ORGANIZATION: EPA IX, Surveillence and Analysis Div., Water Branch

4. TELEPHONE NO. (area code & no.): 415-556-8044

B. INSPECTION PARTICIPANTS

1. NAME	2. ORGANIZATION	3. TELEPHONE NO.
Greenberg	EPA IX	415-556-8044
Vaille	EPA IX	415-556-8044
Steve Piatek	Engineering Science Inc.	213-445-7560

C. SITE REPRESENTATIVES INTERVIEWED (corporate officials, workers, residents)

1. NAME	2. TITLE & TELEPHONE NO.	3. ADDRESS
Mel Burland	Plant Manager	Atlas Asbestos Coalinga, CA.
Ivan Moore	President	Wheeler Properties
Jim Watson	Plant Supervisor	Atlas Asbestos Coaling, CA

SFUND RECORDS CTR
88095834

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III. INSPECTION INFORMATION (continued)

D. GENERATOR INFORMATION (sources of waste)

1. NAME	2. TELEPHONE NO.	3. ADDRESS	4. WASTE TYPE GENERATED
Atlas Asbestos	NONE	Los Gatos Creek Rd. Coalinga, CA 93210	Asbestos Tailings and mine overburden

E. TRANSPORTER/HAULER INFORMATION

1. NAME	2. TELEPHONE NO.	3. ADDRESS	4. WASTE TYPE TRANSPORTED
N.A.			

F. IF WASTE IS PROCESSED ON SITE AND ALSO SHIPPED TO OTHER SITES, IDENTIFY OFF-SITE FACILITIES USED FOR DISPOSAL.

1. NAME	2. TELEPHONE NO.	3. ADDRESS
N.A.		

G. DATE OF INSPECTION (mo., day, & yr.)	H. TIME OF INSPECTION	I. ACCESS GAINED BY: (credentials must be shown in all cases)
5/20/80	10:00am – 4:00pm	☒ 1. PERMISSION ☐ 2. WARRANT

J. WEATHER (describe)
clear / hazy, 90°F, light wind

IV. SAMPLING INFORMATION

A. Mark 'X' for the types of samples taken and indicate where they have been sent e.g., regional lab, other EPA lab, contractor, etc. and estimate when the results will be available.

1. SAMPLE TYPE	2. SAMPLE TAKEN (mark 'X')	3. SAMPLE SENT TO:	4. DATE RESULTS AVAILABLE
a. GROUNDWATER			
b. SURFACE WATER	X	LFE Laboratory 230 Wright Ave, Richmond CA 94804 (contractor)	6/20/80
c. WASTE (Tailings)	X	GCA Corp., Tech. Div., 213 Burlington Rd. Bedford, Mass 01730 (contractor)	6/23/80
d. AIR			
e. RUNOFF			
f. SPILL			
g. SOIL	X	GCA Corp., Tech. Div., 213 Burlington Rd. Bedford, Mass 01730 (contractor)	6/23/80
h. VEGETATION			
i. OTHER (specify)			

B. FIELD MEASUREMENTS TAKEN (e.g., radioactivity, explosivity, PH, etc.)

1. TYPE	2. LOCATION OF MEASUREMENTS	3. RESULTS
Visual Observations of stream flows and waste surface areas	Los Gatos Creek Watershed	

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IV. SAMPLING INFORMATION (continued)

C. PHOTOS

1. TYPE OF PHOTOS: [X] a. GROUND [X] b. AERIAL

2. PHOTOS IN CUSTODY OF: Ken Greenberg (Aerial photo on order)

D. SITE MAPPED?

[X] YES. SPECIFY LOCATION OF MAPS: USGS maps - 15' Quad Santa Rita Peak, CA and inspector's sketches

E. COORDINATES

1. LATITUDE (deg.-min.-sec.): 36° 19' 20"

2. LONGITUDE (deg.-min.-sec.): 120° 35'

V. SITE INFORMATION

A. SITE STATUS

[X] 1. ACTIVE (Those inductrial or municipal sites which are being used for waste treatment, storage, or disposal on a continuing basis, even if infrequently.)

[ ] 2. INACTIVE (Those sites which no longer receive wastes.)

[ ] 3. OTHER (specify): _____ (Those sites that include such incidents like "midnight dumping" where no regular or continuing use of the site for waste disposal has occurred.)

B. IS GENERATOR ON SITE?

[ ] 1. NO [X] 2. YES (specify generator's four-digit SIC Code): 3292

C. AREA OF SITE (in acres): Tailings Pile covers Approx. 22 acres

D. ARE THERE BUILDINGS ON THE SITE?

[ ] 1. NO [X] 2. YES (specify): Mill Building (1)

VI. CHARACTERIZATION OF SITE ACTIVITY

Indicate the major site activity(ies) and details relating to each activity by marking 'X' in the appropriate boxes.

'X'	A. TRANSPORTER	'X'	B. STORER	'X'	C. TREATER N.A.	'X'	D. DISPOSER
[X]	1. RAIL	[X]	1. PILE		1. FILTRATION		1. LANDFILL
	2. SHIP		2. SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT		2. INCINERATION		2. LANDFARM
	3. BARGE		3. DRUMS		3. VOLUME REDUCTION		3. OPEN DUMP
	4. TRUCK		4. TANK, ABOVE GROUND		4. RECYCLING/RECOVERY		4. SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT
	5. PIPELINE		5. TANK, BELOW GROUND		5. CHEM./PHYS./TREATMENT		5. MIDNIGHT DUMPING
[X]	6. OTHER (specify): Conveyor belt ~~and~~ from mill and bulldozers on the Tailings pile.		6. OTHER (specify):		6. BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT		6. INCINERATION
					7. WASTE OIL REPROCESSING		7. UNDERGROUND INJECTION
					8. SOLVENT RECOVERY		8. OTHER (specify): Tailings Pile
					9. OTHER (specify):		

E. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS: If the site falls within any of the categories listed below, Supplemental Reports must be completed. Indicate which Supplemental Reports you have filled out and attached to this for..

[ ] 1. STORAGE [ ] 2. INCINERATION [ ] 3. LANDFILL [ ] 4. SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT [ ] 5. DEEP WELL

[ ] 6. CHEM/BIO/PHYS TREATMENT [ ] 7. LANDFARM [ ] 8. OPEN DUMP [ ] 9. TRANSPORTER [ ] 10. RECYCLOR/RECLAIMER

VII. WASTE RELATED INFORMATION

A. WASTE TYPE

[ ] 1. LIQUID [X] 2. SOLID [ ] 3. SLUDGE [ ] 4. GAS

B. WASTE CHARACTERISTICS

[ ] 1. CORROSIVE [ ] 2. IGNITABLE [ ] 3. RADIOACTIVE [ ] 4. HIGHLY VOLATILE

[ ] 5. TOXIC [ ] 6. REACTIVE [ ] 7. INERT [ ] 8. FLAMMABLE

[X] 9. OTHER (specify): Asbestos Tailings - powdery, easily blown by wind + eroded by runoff

C. WASTE CATEGORIES

1. Are records of wastes available? Specify items such as manifests, inventories, etc. below.

Not aware of records

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VII. WASTE RELATED INFORMATION (continued)

2. Estimate the amount (*specify unit of measure*) of waste by category; mark 'X' to indicate which wastes are present.

a. SLUDGE	b. OIL	c. SOLVENTS	d. CHEMICALS	e. SOLIDS	f. OTHER
AMOUNT N.A.	AMOUNT N.A.	AMOUNT N.A.	AMOUNT N.A.	AMOUNT Tailings cover approx. 22	AMOUNT N.A.
UNIT OF MEASURE	UNIT OF MEASURE	UNIT OF MEASURE	UNIT OF MEASURE	UNIT OF MEASURE Acres	UNIT OF MEASURE
'X' (1) PAINT, PIGMENTS	'X' (1) OILY WASTES	'X' (1) HALOGENATED SOLVENTS	'X' (1) ACIDS	'X' (1) FLYASH	'X' (1) LABORATORY, PHARMACEUT.
(2) METALS SLUDGES	(2) OTHER(*specify*):	(2) NON-HALOGNTD. SOLVENTS	(2) PICKLING LIQUORS	X (2) ASBESTOS	(2) HOSPITAL
(3) POTW		(3) OTHER(*specify*):	(3) CAUSTICS	X (3) MILLING/MINE TAILINGS (asbestos)	(3) RADIOACTIVE
(4) ALUMINUM SLUDGE			(4) PESTICIDES	(4) FERROUS SMELTING WASTES	(4) MUNICIPAL
(5) OTHER(*specify*):			(5) DYES/INKS	(5) NON-FERROUS SMLTG. WASTES	(5) OTHER(*specify*):
			(6) CYANIDE	(6) OTHER(*specify*):	
			(7) PHENOLS		
			(8) HALOGENS		
			(9) PCB		
			(10) METALS		
			(11) OTHER(*specify*):		

D. LIST SUBSTANCES OF GREATEST CONCERN WHICH ARE ON THE SITE (*place in descending order of hazard*)

1. SUBSTANCE	2. FORM (*mark 'X'*)			3. TOXICITY (*mark 'X'*)				4. CAS NUMBER	5. AMOUNT	6. UNIT
	a. SOLID	b. LIQ.	c. VAPOR	a. HIGH	b. MED.	c. LOW	d. NONE			
Asbestos	X			X				1332214	Tailings cover approx. 22	acres

VIII. HAZARD DESCRIPTION

FIELD EVALUATION HAZARD DESCRIPTION: Place an 'X' in the box to indicate that the listed hazard exists. Describe the hazard in the space provided.

☒ A. HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS

The obvious hazard to human health is the potential for breathing airborne asbestos originating from the mill and tailings pile. There is a ~~potential~~ possible hazard to human health from the local drinking water supply. See details on the potential hazards is subsections below.

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VIII. HAZARD DESCRIPTION (continued)

☒ **B. NON-WORKER INJURY/EXPOSURE**

The closest town is Coalinga which is 18 miles from the site by air. There are scattered ranches in the hills adjacent to the site. The closest inhabitants are more than a mile away from the site. The potential for non-worker health hazard from exposure to airborne asbestos cannot be accurately estimated because we have no data on the ambient air concentrations of asbestos. See subsections D and G regarding hazards due to water contamination.

☒ **C. WORKER INJURY/EXPOSURE** Approximately 15 people work at the site.

There is great potential for hazards to the health of workers at the Atlas Asbestos mines and mill. The inspectors observed clouds of windblown asbestos at the mill and adjacent tailings pile. There is a severe risk that the workers will inhale asbestos at the site. Workers were observed at the site without respirators. ~~Some~~ Those workers who used breathing protection only had simple paper masks (inadequate for prevention of inhalation of asbestos).

☒ **D. CONTAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLY**

<First read subsection G. below>

In the winter months Los Gatos Creek flows to the San Luis Canal of the California Aqueduct system. In the winter of '79-'80 6259 acre-ft of water from Los Gatos Cr. was allowed to enter the San Luis Canal at mile 158.36 of the canal. This water was not analyzed for asbestos. The next downstream water supply drawing off the San Luis Canal is the Town of Avenal (5000 people) in Kings Co. (approx. 8 miles downstream of the Los Gatos Cr. input). This drinking water supply has not been analyzed for asbestos at the time when it may be contaminated by Los Gatos Creek water. The distance from Atlas Asbestos to the San Luis Canal along the streams (White Cr. and Los Gatos Cr.) is approximately 40 to 45 miles. During the dry season, Los Gatos Cr. does not flow to the San Luis Canal.

☐ **E. CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN**

☐ **F. CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER**

☒ **G. CONTAMINATION OF SURFACE WATER**

Surface runoff from the mine, mill and tailings pile is free to drain into the small streams draining the area. These streams flow into ~~the~~ White Creek which flows into Los Gatos Creek. Asbestos in the streams is not a hazard to flaura or fauna along the creeks. ~~The~~ Drinking water is <u>not</u> drawn directly from these creeks. Water samples were taken from a wide range of streams in the area in an effort to determine the amount of contamination caused by the site. There is also a great potential for contamination of surface waters by runoff from naturally occurring asbestos in the area. This has not been quantified.

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VIII. HAZARD DESCRIPTION *(continued)*

☐ H. DAMAGE TO FLORA/FAUNA

☐ I. FISH KILL

☒ J. CONTAMINATION OF AIR

Asbestos from the mill and tailings pile commonly becomes airborne in a light wind. Air contamination has not been quantified. Ambient air sampling for asbestos has not been done. EPA inspectors noted violations of the NESHAPS regulations for asbestos during inspections on Feb. 13, March 27, April 17 and May 20, 1980. Visible emissions from the mill and tailings pile were among the violations noted.

☐ K. NOTICEABLE ODORS

☐ L. CONTAMINATION OF SOIL

☐ M. PROPERTY DAMAGE

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VIII. HAZARD DESCRIPTION *(continued)*

☐ N. FIRE OR EXPLOSION

☐ O. SPILLS/LEAKING CONTAINERS/RUNOFF/STANDING LIQUID

☐ P. SEWER, STORM DRAIN PROBLEMS

☐ Q. EROSION PROBLEMS

☐ R. INADEQUATE SECURITY

☐ S. INCOMPATIBLE WASTES

Continue On Reverse

VIII. HAZARD DESCRIPTION *(continued)*

☐ T. MIDNIGHT DUMPING

☐ U. OTHER *(specify)*:

IX. POPULATION DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY SITE

A. LOCATION OF POPULATION	B. APPROX. NO. OF PEOPLE AFFECTED	C. APPROX. NO. OF PEOPLE AFFECTED WITHIN UNIT AREA (1 mile radius)	D. APPROX. NO. OF BUILDINGS AFFECTED	E. DISTANCE TO SITE *(specify units)*
1. IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS	Affect is not known Coalinga – 6375 (1978 EST.) Avenal – 3100	NONE	NONE	
2. IN COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL AREAS	UNKNOWN	15 mill employees	NONE	
3. IN PUBLICLY TRAVELLED AREAS	UNKNOWN	NONE	NONE	
4. PUBLIC USE AREAS *(parks, schools, etc.)*	UNKNOWN	NONE	NONE	

X. WATER AND HYDROLOGICAL DATA

A. DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER *(specify unit)*	B. DIRECTION OF FLOW	C. GROUNDWATER USE IN VICINITY
Groundwater data was not gathered because it is unlikely that the groundwater will become contaminated by asbestos from the tailings pile.		
D. POTENTIAL YIELD OF AQUIFER	**E. DISTANCE TO DRINKING WATER SUPPLY** *(specify unit of measure)*	**F. DIRECTION TO DRINKING WATER SUPPLY**
—		

G. TYPE OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

☒ 1. NON-COMMUNITY < 15 CONNECTIONS*

☒ 2. COMMUNITY *(specify town)*: > 15 CONNECTIONS — Avenal in Kings Co. is the first community which draws water from the aqueduct downstream of the input of Los Gatos Creek

☐ 3. SURFACE WATER

☒ 4. WELL

It is possible that small groups of people drink the water from irrigation streams which are drawn off the aqueduct below the input of Los Gatos Creek. This possibility is currently under investigation.

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X. WATER AND HYDROLOGICAL DATA (continued)

H. LIST ALL DRINKING WATER WELLS WITHIN A 1/4 MILE RADIUS OF SITE

1. WELL	2. DEPTH (specify unit)	3. LOCATION (proximity to population/buildings)	4. NON-COMMUNITY (mark 'X')	5. COMMUNITY (mark 'X')
This section will	not be filled out	because it is unlikely	that	
wells would become	contaminated by asbestos	from the waste site.		

I. RECEIVING WATER

1. NAME: White Creek (tributary to Los Gatos Creek)

☐ 2. SEWERS ☒ 3. STREAMS/RIVERS ☐ 4. LAKES/RESERVOIRS ☐ 5. OTHER (specify):

5. SPECIFY USE AND CLASSIFICATION OF RECEIVING WATERS

Streams are intermittent and used only for seasonal stockwatering. Occassionaly, Los Gatos Creek flows into the California Aqueduct which is used for irrigation, municipal and industrial water supplies

XI. SOIL AND VEGITATION DATA

LOCATION OF SITE IS IN:

☒ A. KNOWN FAULT ZONE ☐ B. KARST ZONE ☐ C. 100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN ☐ D. WETLAND

☐ E. A REGULATED FLOODWAY ☐ F. CRITICAL HABITAT ☐ G. RECHARGE ZONE OR SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER

XII. TYPE OF GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL OBSERVED

Mark 'X' to indicate the type(s) of geological material observed and specify where necessary, the component parts.

'X'	A. OVERBURDEN	'X'	B. BEDROCK (specify below)	'X'	C. OTHER (specify below)
	1. SAND	X	Serpentine (Surface to depths of 2000 ft or more)	X	Serpentine contains chrysotile asbestos and is strongly sheared, similar in appearance to talc
	2. CLAY				
	3. GRAVEL				

XIII. SOIL PERMEABILITY

☐ A. UNKNOWN ☐ B. VERY HIGH (100,000 to 1000 cm/sec.) ☒ C. HIGH (1000 to 10 cm/sec.)

☐ D. MODERATE (10 to .1 cm/sec.) ☐ E. LOW (.1 to .001 cm/sec.) ☐ F. VERY LOW (.001 to .00001 cm/sec.)

G. RECHARGE AREA

☒ 1. YES ☐ 2. NO 3. COMMENTS:

H. DISCHARGE AREA

☐ 1. YES ☐ 2. NO 3. COMMENTS:

I. SLOPE

1. ESTIMATE % OF SLOPE: 0% - 100%

2. SPECIFY DIRECTION OF SLOPE, CONDITION OF SLOPE, ETC. The mill area + top of tailings pile is at a 0% slope. Sides of tailings and surrounding hills have slopes up to 100%. Entire area drains into White Creek

J. OTHER GEOLOGICAL DATA

 Continue On Reverse

XIV. PERMIT INFORMATION

List all applicable permits held by the site and provide the related information.

A. PERMIT TYPE (e.g., RCRA, State, NPDES, etc.)	B. ISSUING AGENCY	C. PERMIT NUMBER	D. DATE ISSUED (mo., day, & yr.)	E. EXPIRATION DATE (mo., day, & yr.)	F. IN COMPLIANCE (mark 'X') 1. YES	2. NO	3. UNKNOWN
Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution	Central Valley RWQCB	Resolution No. 70-32	10/9/69	NA			X

XV. PAST REGULATORY OR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

☐ NONE ☒ YES (summarize in this space)

1) Dec. 3, 1976 EPA issued Notice of Violation and Order for violations of NESHAPS regulations (visible emissions from tailings and mill and improper baghouse operation and maintenance). The Order required immediate compliance.

2) Oct. 3, 1979 Fresno County Air Pollution Control District issued a violation notice for violation of Fresno County NESHAPS Rule 423 (visible emissions)

3) Nov. 26, 1979 Fresno County Air Pollution Control District issued an Order requiring mill to discontinue visible emissions and comply with Fresno County NESHAPS Rule 423.

4) Feb. 15, 1980 EPA issued a Finding of Violation and Order for violations of NESHAPS regulations (visible emissions from tailings and mill and improper operation and maintenance of baghouse). The Order required immediate compliance.

5) May 29, 1980 EPA filed a litigation report with the U.S. Department of Justice. The report asked for a preliminary and permanent injunction against the owner and operator requiring compliance with the NESHAPS regulations. EPA also requested (continued)

NOTE: Based on the information in Sections III through XV, fill out the Tentative Disposition (Section II) information on the first page of this form.

(continuation of part XV)

that a civil penalty be separately assessed against the owner and operator of the site for their failure to comply and for knowing violation of the EPA Order. The report also noted the presence of high levels of asbestos in the stream (Los Gatos Creek) below the site. A water sample taken from Los Gatos Creek, on a separate investigation by an EPA contractor, contained chrysotile at a concentration of 3.1×10^{12} fibers / liter.