



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Applicability Determination Index

Control Number: C99

Category: Asbestos
EPA Office: SSCD
Date: 07/17/1991
Title: Asbestos Cement Pipe Disposal
Recipient: Perez, Joseph L.
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Subparts: Part 61, M, Asbestos

References: 61.141
61.150
61.151(e)
61.154

Abstract:

The crushing of asbestos-cement pipe, Category II nonfriable ACM, would cause the material to become regulated ACM (RACM) and would be subject to sections 61.145 and 61.150. The backfilling and burial of crushed A/C pipe in place would cause these locations to be considered active disposal sites and subject to section 61.154. If no additional asbestos waste is buried at that location within a year, the site would become an inactive site subject to 61.151(e) and 61.154(h). If the pipe is not crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder, it would not be subject to the NESHAP. Pumping grout into the buried lines would not cause the pipe to become RACM.

Letter:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Office of
Air and Radiation

JUL 17 1991

Mr. Joseph L. Perez
Utilities Engineer
Utility Services Department
Board of County Commissioners
901 S.E. Prineville Street
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34983

Dear Mr. Perez:

This is in response to your May 15, 1991 letter to Mr. Jim Kwiat of EPA's Office of Toxic Substances. Your letter was forwarded to the Stationary Source Compliance Division since it is our office that provides clarifications on the Asbestos National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

In your letter you inquired whether the crushing of excavated asbestos cement pipe in place with mechanical equipment and backfilling and burying of the crushed pipe would be acceptable by EPA.

In the revised Asbestos NESHAP, promulgated on November 20, 1990, EPA defined two categories of nonfriable asbestos-containing material (ACM): Category I nonfriable ACM and Category II nonfriable ACM. As defined in 40 CFR Section 61.141, "Category I nonfriable ACM" means asbestos-containing packings, gaskets, resilient floor covering and asphalt roofing products containing more than 1 percent asbestos determined using the methods specified in Appendix A, Subpart F, 40 CFR Part 763, Section 1, Polarized Light Microscopy. Category II nonfriable ACM means any material, excluding Category I nonfriable ACM, containing more than 1 percent asbestos as determined using the methods [cited above] that when dry cannot be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure."

EPA considers asbestos cement pipe to be a "facility component" (as defined in 40 CFR S 61.141) of the facility which owns or utilizes the pipe. In addition, EPA considers asbestos cement pipe to be Category II nonfriable asbestos-containing material.

This material will become "regulated asbestos-containing material" (RACM), as defined in 40 CFR .61.141, when it becomes "friable asbestos material" or when it "has a high probability of becoming or has become crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by the forces expected to act on the material during the course of demolition or renovation operations regulated by [40 CFR Part 61 Subpart M]." Consequently, the crushing of asbestos cement pipe with mechanical equipment would cause this material to become RACM. The demolition and renovation provisions in 40 CFR .61.145 and the waste disposal provisions in 40 CFR .61.150 would apply to asbestos cement pipe where the pipe is considered RACM, and the amount of pipe being removed and crushed is at least 260 linear feet for a single renovation project or during a calendar year for individual nonscheduled operations.

The backfilling and burial of the crushed asbestos cement pipe in place would cause these locations to be considered active waste disposal sites and therefore subject to the requirements in Section 61.154. Furthermore, if no additional asbestos-containing waste material is buried at that location for a year, the site would become an inactive waste disposal site subject to the requirements of Section 61.151(e) and Section 61.154(h). Consequently, the owner of the land would be required to comply with the requirements for active and inactive waste disposal sites discussed above.

In order to avoid the creation of a waste disposal site which is subject to the Asbestos NESHAP, the owners or operators of the pipe may want to consider other options for dealing with the abandoned pipe. If the pipe is left in place or removed in such a way that it is not crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder, it would not be subject to the NESHAP. If the pipe must be crushed, the owners or operators of the pipe can avoid creating an active waste disposal site by removing the pipe from the site and transporting it as asbestos waste material, in accordance with Section 61.150, to a landfill which accepts asbestos waste material.

You also described an alternative method involving the pumping of grout into the buried lines which are no longer in service. The pumping of grout into buried lines is not a process which, in and of itself, would cause asbestos cement pipe to become RACM, as discussed above. However, both the present condition of the pipe and the method used to take the pipe out of service should also be considered to determine the applicability of the Asbestos NESHAP.

This determination has been coordinated with EPA's Office of Enforcement, the Emission Standards Division of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards and Region IV. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Throwe of my staff at (703) 308-8699.

Sincerely,

John B. Rasnic, Director
Stationary Source Compliance Division
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

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