

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 8, 2004

Sherry Smith
Superintendent
El Dorado Union High School District
4675 Missouri Flat Road
Placerville, California 95667

Re: Oak Ridge High School;
Classroom E-4

Dear Ms. Smith:

Please accept this letter to confirm that the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has completed its response action at the Oak Ridge High School. Based on the information provided by you and Bill Wright on behalf of the El Dorado Union High School District, and conditioned on an appropriate cleaning and maintenance regimen, EPA believes that there is no longer a substantial threat of endangerment to the faculty or students.

As you know, active air samples from the classroom designated "E-4" continued to show elevated levels of asbestos despite repeated cleaning. EPA previously has declared the response complete in regard to the school grounds and other classrooms. In your September 29, 2004 letter to Dan Meer, you identified the source of the persistent asbestos in classroom R-4 as the transite countertops in the room. After again cleaning the room and conducting active air sampling, your lab confirmed that amphibole asbestos was not present in classroom E-4. Amphibole asbestos is the category generally identified in EPA's response action to outdoor asbestos. The asbestos identified by the sampling is chrysotile asbestos, which appears to be from the transite countertops. Over the course of repeated cleaning and sampling in classroom E-4, EPA would expect that, if the source of contamination were from the outdoor asbestos, amphibole asbestos would appear in at least some of the sampling. Because the contamination in classroom E-4 consistently demonstrated no tremolite asbestos, EPA deems the response action to outdoor, naturally occurring asbestos to be complete. EPA has considered the issue of the transite countertops as a separate matter subject to the provisions of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2641 et seq. ("AHERA").

Pursuant to AHERA, the transite countertops are an "asbestos containing material," and are subject

to inspection and potential remediation. EPA received declarations from the El Dorado Union High School District's AHERA compliance officer, Daniel Augino, and from a certified asbestos consultant, Douglas Colley of Hazard Management Services, Inc. Messrs. Augino and Colley state that they conducted an investigation of the transite countertops, that the countertops now are appropriately encapsulated, and that confirmation sampling was below the AHERA standards. Mr. Augino will add the countertops to the AHERA Management Plan to ensure the necessary care and maintenance. Based on this information, EPA is satisfied that the transite countertops do not create a risk of asbestos exposure in classroom E-4.

If you have questions about this letter or EPA's actions at Oak Ridge High School, please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 972-3043.

Sincerely,

Peter Guria
Chief, Emergency Response Section
U.S. EPA Region 9