

Naturally Occurring Asbestos in Construction

Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is a subset of a class of potentially hazardous Elongate Mineral Particles (EMPs) that are becoming increasingly important to the field of Industrial Hygiene. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is a leader in the recognition, evaluation and control of ELPs on construction projects, and is contributing significantly to research in this field. This presentation will focus on developing and implementing a risk management strategy using SFPUC's Calaveras Dam Replacement Project (CDRP) as a case study.

Bio-

Laura O'Heir, M.P.H, CIH, CSP, will begin with a summary of the current regulatory framework and standard of practice, and how state and Federal regulations could be expanded based on recent research. She will then discuss how the development and use of geologically based NOA potential maps allows for the early identification of NOA forming the basis for industrial hygiene and safety requirements.

Bradley Erskine, Ph.D., CEG, will present a case study on the CDRP, the largest NOA/EMP construction project currently undertaken in the United States. Dr. Erskine will focus on the perimeter and ambient monitoring program designed to assure that emissions of both regulated NOA and non-regulated ELPs remain below risk-based thresholds during the seven-year project. He will also discuss particle tracing by analyzing the chemical "fingerprint" of each mineral source allowing project management to differentiate project on-site emission sources from those generated from projects off-site.