



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
REGION 1  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE – SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

Dear BSA Green Mountain Council, Scouts, Parents, Staff, and Friends of the Mt. Norris Boy Scout Reservation,

The Mt. Norris Boy Scout Reservation (Mt. Norris) was closed for all camping activities during the 2009 summer season due to levels of asbestos detected above the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acceptable risk range in the indoor air of several on-site structures. The Boy Scouts made this decision after careful consideration and consultation with the EPA and the State of Vermont. The closure of Mt. Norris allowed EPA and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) to conduct further investigations and then have EPA conduct cleanup activities to mitigate the potential asbestos hazard.

The agencies involved understand that the source of this asbestos was from mine tailings (from the now abandoned Vermont Asbestos Group Mine in nearby Eden and Lowell) that were brought to Mt. Norris years ago and used as fill material for the main parking lot. Tailings are waste rock from the mining and milling process after the asbestos is removed from the rock for commercial applications. This extraction process results in tailings that typically contain small to trace amounts of residual asbestos.

Further investigation of Mt. Norris included extensive sampling throughout the property and within a number of the structures. The sampling was conducted by EPA after consultation with the State of Vermont. A cleanup plan was developed and completed based on results of the investigation.

Although every single on-site structure was cleaned, only the structures that were sampled during the original investigation were re-sampled after they were cleaned. This was done to allow EPA to compare the concentrations of asbestos detected prior to the cleanup with anything detected post cleanup and to ensure that the cleanup effectively reduced the risk.

Since the campers typically sleep in canvas tents during their stay and as an added precaution, all of tents (and tee-pees) were also cleaned. All of the camp mattresses used by campers and staff were disposed of and replaced with new ones as an additional safety measure.

In addition to the cleaning of the structures, some bare areas adjacent to the parking lot (which had received tailings as cover material numerous years ago) were capped with asphalt to prevent the possibility of any continuing airborne threats. EPA will return to Mt. Norris in the spring of 2010 to add a sealing layer of new asphalt to the existing parking lot, further reducing any potential risk.

The results from sampling conducted after the cleaning confirmed that the cleanup effectively reduced the risk. Either no asbestos was detected or fibers were detected at levels that fall within EPA's acceptable risk levels in both confirmatory indoor dust and airborne samples.

A final report will be completed after EPA completes their work at Mt. Norris in the spring. The report will document the sampling methods, procedures, results, and interpretation of those results. The report will be provided to the Green Mountain Council and to any individuals that request it.

Sincerely



Gary Lipson,  
EPA On-Scene Coordinator