



Fact Sheet for the Asbestos Control Program's Programmatic Environmental Assessment

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is soliciting public comment on the Asbestos Control Program's (ACP) Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The ACP is responsible for issuing Asbestos Project Permits and Demolition Acknowledgements for all facility renovation and demolition activities. The ACP also upholds the training and accreditation programs for all asbestos-related occupations in the state of Montana.

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A Programmatic EA is an analysis of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. A Programmatic EA provides Montana Environmental Policy Act coverage for a proposed action that can occur across the whole state of Montana.

If finalized, the Programmatic EA would be implemented in the Asbestos Project Permit application process and prevent DEQ from creating single use EAs for each Asbestos Project Permit application. Individuals seeking an Asbestos Project Permit would still be required to submit an application to DEQ for review. DEQ would then determine whether the proposed project falls within the bounds of the Programmatic EA using a Categorical Exclusion checklist. DEQ staff would complete the checklist upon receipt of each application.

Applications with anticipated impacts that fall outside the scope of the Programmatic EA would require supplemental review by DEQ for those impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROPOSED ACTION

The Programmatic EA has been prepared for DEQ's proposed action in accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The EA outlines reasonable alternatives and any impacts to the human environment that may result from DEQ's actions.

DEQ's proposed action is to issue Asbestos Project Permits for asbestos projects and the transport and disposal of asbestos-containing wastes. An asbestos project means the encapsulation, enclosure, removal, repair, renovation, placement in new construction, demolition of asbestos in a building or other structure, or transport or disposal of asbestos-containing waste in quantities greater than 10 square feet in surface area or 3 linear feet of pipe.

Transport and disposal of asbestos-containing wastes from an asbestos project must be permitted by an Asbestos Project Permit and deposited at a licensed Class II or Class IV landfill facility. Asbestos Project Permits include Annual Asbestos Project Permits, which authorizes a facility to conduct asbestos projects within the confines of the facility's controlled area during the year for which the permit is in force.

DEQ may issue revisions for Asbestos Project Permits if there is a change in the operator/owner, contractor, transporter, disposal facility, amount of regulated asbestos-containing materials (RACM) being disturbed by at least 20% or more, scope of work, or start or completion date.

DEQ may issue Asbestos Project Permits for emergency renovation operations, meaning a renovation operation that was not planned but results from a sudden, unexpected event that, if not immediately attended to, presents a safety or public health hazard, is necessary to promote equipment from damage, or is necessary to avoid imposing an unreasonable financial burden.

DEQ may also approve alternate work practices which mean proposed alternative control measures, methods for clearing asbestos projects, or work methods other than those specified in ARM Title 17, Chapter 74, Subchapter 3.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are provided thirty (30) calendar days to review and comment on the draft EA. The draft EA is available for review on DEQ's website. It may also be reviewed during business hours at:

<i>Location Information</i>	<i>Review Hours</i>
Montana Department of Environmental Quality Waste Management Bureau 1225 Cedar Street Helena, Montana 59601 (406) 444-5300	Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Comment Period

The comment period is from June 24, 2025 through July 28, 2025.

Comments must be submitted in writing no later than July 28, 2025 to:

Ryan Foley
Environmental Science Specialist
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. BOX 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Comments may also be submitted via email to deqacponline@mt.gov. Please use the subject line *ACP Environmental Assessment*.

DEQ's Response to Comments

DEQ will prepare a Response to Comments to respond to any comments received during the comment period.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you need further information, please contact Ryan Foley at the address listed above, phone (406) 444-1417 or email ryan.foley@mt.gov

For additional information about the ACP, please visit <https://deq.mt.gov/cleanupandrec/Program/asbestos>.