Asbestos:
"A Century of Environmental (In)Justice"

Linda Reinstein, Co-Founder/President
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)

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Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Education  Advocacy  Community

REGISTERED 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT
Profits over People
What is Asbestos?

Chrysotile, Crocidolite, Amosite, Anthophyllite, Tremolite, Actinolite
20,000 Fibers

Compared to rice and hair

2-3 rice grains
20,000 Asbestos Fibers
5-6 human hairs

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Asbestosis, mesothelioma, lung cancer and diffuse pleural thickening

Fibers in Lung Tissue
Wave One

Manufacturing
1900 – Present
USA Consumed Over 31 Million Metric tons

SOURCE: USGS
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EPA Banned Asbestos in 1989

Overturned in 1991
U.S. Asbestos Consumption

- 1906: First case of asbestos-related disease
- 1929: Workers begin suing Johns Manville
- 1964: Dr. I. Selikoff
- 1973: Record high 803,000 MT
- 1989: EPA Bans Asbestos
- 1991: Ban Overruled

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2016

"Asbestos consumption in the United States was estimated to be about 340 tons.

The chloralkali industry accounted for an estimated 100% of U.S. consumption."
Asbestos Exposure Pathways

1. Mining and Milling
2. Transporting
3. Storage
4. Processing and Manufacturing
5. Spillage and Clean-up
6. Removal/Replacement of Asbestos-Contaminated Materials
7. Disposal
Human Cost of Inaction

15,000 Annual Deaths
NEW CDC DATA CONFIRMS: MESOTHELIOMA DEATHS ARE ON THE RISE IN U.S. DESPITE DECREASED ASBESTOS USE
Built Environment
WHEN THE FIRE ALARM WENT OFF, IT TOOK TWO HOURS TO EVACUATE NEW YORK’S WORLD TRADE CENTRE.

The bigger the building, the more important fire-proofing becomes. That’s why today’s buildings have asbestos-cement walls and even floors containing asbestos.

Asbestos contains fire, cannot burn and holds up after metal and glass have melted down, giving vital time for people to escape. You’ll also find asbestos sealing plumbing joints, insulating heating pipes, electric motors and emergency generators.

Asbestos. We couldn’t live the way we do without it.

When life depends on it, you use asbestos.

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NIOSH: “Firefighters in the study had a rate of mesothelioma two times greater than the rate in the U.S. population as a whole.”
Asbestos: Legal and Lethal

2000, 2007, and 2015
Asbestos exposure accounted for nearly two-thirds of the global burden of all occupational carcinogens (2013)

16 Asbestos Superfund Sites
EPA: No Hazard From White Mts.

By MARGE CATHEY

Regional representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) apologized last Friday to Ambler Borough for a press release sent out last month from EPA headquarters in Washington.

The release listed Ambler’s waste piles as one of the sites in the county “that may contain hazardous wastes which could cause adverse impact on public health or the environment.” The release was picked up by the wire services and Ambler gained some unwanted notoriety.

AT THE INVITATION of Ambler Mayor George Saurman, who, with borough council, has been disturbed that such adverse publicity would deter people from moving to the area, a meeting was held Friday afternoon to try to put to rest the story that Ambler is a hazardous place to live.

Attending the meeting were representatives of EPA, the state Department of Environmental Resources (DER), a representative of Certain-teed Products, a representative of IMS, one of the largest employers in Ambler, the Montgomery County Planning Commission, the borough planners, and Norman Scott, executive director of the Wissahickon Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Richard J. Pastor, Pennsylvania Program Officer of EPA’s Office of Intergovernmental Relations, explained, “It was not EPA’s intent to cause the kind of concern which resulted from its press release. The release came out of our headquarters in Washington. We never intended that the release should indicate that Ambler’s waste piles were hazardous.”

ROBERT L. ALLEN, chief of EPA’s regional Hazardous Materials Branch, assured Mayor Saurman that “with what information we have today, we...
Ambler: Once the Asbestos Capital of the World

Photo Credit: Bob Raines Source: Montgomery Media

"Children play on a sliding board in the playground on Locust St, Ambler beside the asbestos piles commonly known as the "White Mountains" about 1984."

"Workmen begin hydroseeding portions of "White Mountains," the Ambler asbestos Superfund site in the mid 1980s."

"Workers cover Ambler's "White Mountains" with soil and hydroseeded to contain the asbestos. Work was begun in the mid-1980s. The EPA-approved final cleanup of the Ambler Asbestos Piles Site was completed on August 30, 1993."
Laboratory test confirmed the debris was 60% chrysotile asbestos.
Libby, MT Asbestos Toxic Clean Up

EPA Spent $600 million
MONEY, POWER, AND POLITICS
Top Six Asbestos Producers and Users (2014) Accounted for 48% of the Global Population

- Russia
- India
- China
- Indonesia
- Brazil
- Kazakhstan

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ROI on Prevention 1:2

Cost-benefit potential for investments in prevention may be as strong as 1:2.2
President Obama Signs TSCA Reform into Law

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Fake News, Junk Science, and a Pruitt-led EPA Threaten a Toxic Future for America
Statement by the U.S. Surgeon Vivek H. Murthy for National Asbestos Awareness Week (2016)

AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.Org
Thank you.

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