

Asbestos Workshop in Review

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According to the present OSHA definition for asbestos, rocks from Maine to Georgia could be viewed as containing asbestos and be considered unsuitable for quarrying for crushed stone. Evidence is lacking on any environmental health threat from such operations. Canadian mining studies with higher concentrations of chrysotile asbestos indicate no adverse health effects. The 1976 NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) can be criticized on the basis there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos and questions the safety of the crust of the earth.

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Animal studies which have produced tumors by inhalation have not been cited.

The conference concluded with presentations on the advantages and limitations of available analytical methods and counting techniques for detection and measurement of the workplace contaminants. Studies have been done using x-ray diffraction, (TEM) transmission electron microscopy, thermo-analysis, phase contrast and optical microscopy.

Proceedings will be published and sent to all those who attended.
Additional copies may be ordered through the National Bureau of Standards.

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