



At a Glance

Catalyst for Improving the Environment

Background

In March 2006, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) opened a preliminary investigation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asbestos cleanup efforts in Libby, Montana, based on allegations that EPA failed to fully address scientific standards for cleanup and of possible contractor misconduct. The Special Agent conducting the investigation determined that, in his judgment, no criminal activity occurred. The Special Agent submitted an investigation summary to his superior on April 27, 2006, detailing the findings of his investigation and recommended that another component of the OIG evaluate EPA cleanup actions in Libby. This memorandum came to be known as the "Rumple Report."

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional, Public Affairs, and Management at (202) 566-2391.

To view the full report, click on the following link:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2009/20090428-09-N-0146.pdf

Public Release of "Rumple Report" on Preliminary Investigation of EPA Cleanup of Amphibole Asbestos in Libby, Montana

On April 21, 2009, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) filed a lawsuit against the Office of Inspector General (OIG) seeking the release of the "Rumple Report." The OIG has the authority to process Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for OIG information and make its own determinations on what information should be withheld, independent of EPA's FOIA Office.

The OIG has decided to release this memorandum in view of the new FOIA guidelines issued by the President and the Attorney General. Given the wider interest in this memorandum, the Acting Inspector General determined that it should also be released to the public, along with a recent internal memorandum that clarifies the circumstances surrounding the "Rumple Report."