



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

*“To protect and improve
the health and environment
of the people of Colorado.”*

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

Thursday, April 1, 2010

No Asbestos Found at Foothills Water Treatment Plant During Multi-agency Inspection Led by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

DENVER— A multi-agency inspection on March 30 led by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment found no evidence of improper asbestos burial at the Foothills Water Treatment Plant operated by Denver Water.

Inspectors from the state Hazardous Materials and Waste Management, Air Pollution Control and Water Quality Control divisions, with personnel from the Tri-County Health Department and Douglas County systematically canvassed Denver Water property looking for evidence of possible asbestos-containing material on the surface. No asbestos-containing material was found, except for cement-asbestos pipe stored in the materials storage area located in the middle of the property. Asbestos fibers are tightly bound in the concrete of these pipes and do not pose an exposure risk. The inspectors also found no evidence of disturbed soil and debris that would indicate undocumented subsurface disposal areas. An official report is being prepared, and will be released upon completion.

Eleven environmental professionals participated in the inspection, which covered areas of the property bordering residential neighborhoods, the Materials Storage Area, sludge drying beds and associated staging areas, the onsite landfill for water treatment residuals, and natural and man-made drainage ways. If asbestos-containing materials were present, these areas would have represented the greatest potential for a release.

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For more information about asbestos-related health risks and regulation, see
http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/release/2010/FoothillsWTPfactsheet_03312010.pdf