



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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Navajo Nation EPA reports no asbestos found among Dilkon Chapter construction debris



Photo of the debris located near the Dilkon Chapter House.

DILKON, Ariz. – In response to community concerns over possible asbestos contamination in construction debris near the Dilkon Chapter House, Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie worked with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) to confirm that the existing pile of debris does not contain asbestos.

A statement released by NNEPA on Feb. 28, clarified that the debris had been tested and verified by All Nations Environmental, Inc., with no asbestos found. NNEPA Senior Environmental Specialist Fredrick Sherman stated, "The pile does not contain asbestos. Asbestos-containing demolition materials have already been properly disposed of in a landfill. Dilkon Chapter is now obtaining three quotes to remove the remaining non-asbestos materials."

The EPA reported that their findings were shared with the Dilkon Chapter and other Navajo government officials.

On Feb. 26, All Nations Environmental, based in Fort Defiance, Ariz., conducted an Asbestos-Containing Building Material (ACBM) Survey at the Dilkon Chapter House, confirming that no asbestos was found in the pile of debris, according to the NNEPA.

The concerns about the debris first surfaced on Feb. 26, when a former chapter official shared a photo of the construction debris on social media. In the post, the official claimed that the

debris contained asbestos from the Dilkon Chapter house floor and called for the debris to be tested.

Upon learning of the situation, Delegate Yazzie immediately contacted both Dilkon Chapter officials and NNEPA for clarification.

“We need to remind all chapters that are engaged in renovation projects to obtain proper guidance for managing asbestos and other contaminants like lead-based paint and mold,” said Delegate Yazzie. “Demolition and waste disposal of contaminated wastes need proper planning and management and should follow necessary protocols.”

For guidance on construction and renovation projects, please reach out to the Division of Community Development Capital Projects Management Department at (928) 871-6211.

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