



October 4, 2024

mason.klahn@state.co.us
mark.rudolph@state.co.us

Dear Mr. Klahn and Mr. Rudolph,

Routt County and the City of Steamboat Springs are formally requesting assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency's Emergency Response Program for immediate cleanup of a site consisting of two destroyed mobile homes where significant levels of asbestos has been discovered, exceeding the ability of local resources to remove safely and according to required removal instructions provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE).

On June 17, 2024, a private aircraft operating in the vicinity of Bob Adams Airport in Steamboat Springs crashed into the West Acres Mobile Home Park, completely destroying two of the mobile homes and killing the pilot and his passenger. Following a crash investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the mobile home owners began the process of debris removal but had to stop when CDPHE determined that the site was a major asbestos spill. Neither the City of Steamboat Springs nor Routt County have the capability to safely conduct debris removal at the crash site in accordance with the instructions provided by CDPHE. The property owners obtained estimates from commercial debris removal companies that are capable of conducting this operation, but the estimates provided greatly exceed the financial means of the homeowners. Additionally, it is expected the potential funding being provided by the homeowners' and aircraft owner's insurance is inadequate to cover all of the claims stemming from this accident.

While the insurance companies and an attorney contracted by the homeowners are in discussion on this matter, other residents in the mobile home park are concerned about the asbestos and the potential for it to spread due to wind or rain. The debris with asbestos has now been on the ground for nearly four months with no further progress or schedule identified for cleanup, creating an unacceptable risk to the community. This debris has not been covered or otherwise mitigated, and while the mobile home park owners have placed plastic fencing around the area, that fencing has been compromised, leading to additional illegal dumping on the site and exacerbating the problem. It should also be noted that this situation is occurring in a vulnerable population in a low-income area in our community. Marginalized populations such as those living in the West Acres Mobile Home Park historically are underserved by existing assistance systems. As each day passes without cleanup, the situation is becoming an environmental justice issue that needs to be addressed for the residents.

It is imperative that the debris removal operations begin as soon as possible. Routt County usually begins receiving snowfall in November, and this snow will impede the debris removal operations and increase the hazard to debris removal personnel. There is also an increasing risk of spread as this snow melts. Due to the slope of the debris site, it is expected snowmelt in the spring will flow off of the impacted property and onto nearby properties, with the potential to bring asbestos-contaminated material with it.

Routt County and the City of Steamboat Springs respectfully request EPA's assistance to ensure this site is properly cleaned up safely, thoroughly, and in a timely manner so that the cleanup operation can be completed before the expected snow this November.



Please let us know if any additional information is required about the site and scope of contamination. We look forward to collaborating with the EPA on this project to remove this hazard as quickly as possible to better ensure the safety for other residents of this community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jay Harrington'.

Jay Harrington
Routt County Manager

Gary Suiter
Steamboat Springs City Manager