



EXPLANATION

As a health hazard, asbestos is usually linked with man-made building materials and renovation dust, but asbestos is also found naturally in the geologic environment. The Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) task force, a part of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), has been instrumental in developing Alaska Statutes regulating the testing and use of NOA in construction-material sources in Alaska (<http://www.dot.alaska.gov/roadsandmaterials/noa.shtml>). To better predict where NOA could occur in Alaska, DOT&PF contracted the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) to evaluate the bedrock geology of the state for NOA potential. The resulting distribution of NOA potential and occurrences is shown on this series of maps covering the state of Alaska.

To summarize locations of known asbestos occurrences, DGGS searched the Alaska Resource Data File (ARDF; <http://ardf.wr.usgs.gov/>) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mineral Resource Data System (MRDS; <http://mrds.data.usgs.gov/minerals-resources/mrds-ak.html>) for references to asbestos in Alaska. While there are certainly additional NOA occurrences in Alaska, the scope of this study did not include a comprehensive literature search. Furthermore, the locations of ARDF and MRDS occurrences have variable accuracy. Some error must be expected when comparing the point data to the geologic polygons. Locations of ARDF and MRDS asbestos occurrences were not field checked.

Naturally occurring asbestos develops in predictable geologic settings worldwide. Rock types from these settings, shown on regional U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) geologic maps of Alaska, were rated for NOA potential based on a specific set of criteria (see accompanying report, Appendix 1). Interpretation of NOA potential was based on published rock unit descriptions. The percentages of NOA-favorable rocks in each unit were not always reported, necessarily resulting in subjective interpretations for this project (for example, is the amount of amphibolite in a metamorphic unit moderate, minor, or trace?). Correlative map unit on adjacent maps may be rated differently depending on how NOA-favorable lithologies (types of rocks) are described in the source publications.

This map series is intended as a guide to bedrock areas where naturally occurring asbestos might occur. Just because a map shows potential for NOA does not mean asbestos will actually be there; conversely, significant amounts of asbestos could be present in areas shown as having zero to low potential for NOA. Local geology must be examined carefully and samples need to be collected and tested to verify the actual presence or absence and amount of NOA in an area. The NOA program website (<http://www.dot.alaska.gov/roadsandmaterials/noa.shtml>) provides helpful information on testing methodology and sampling protocol. This publication was supported by funds from DOT&PF.

RELATIVE LIKELIHOOD FOR PRESENCE OF NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS

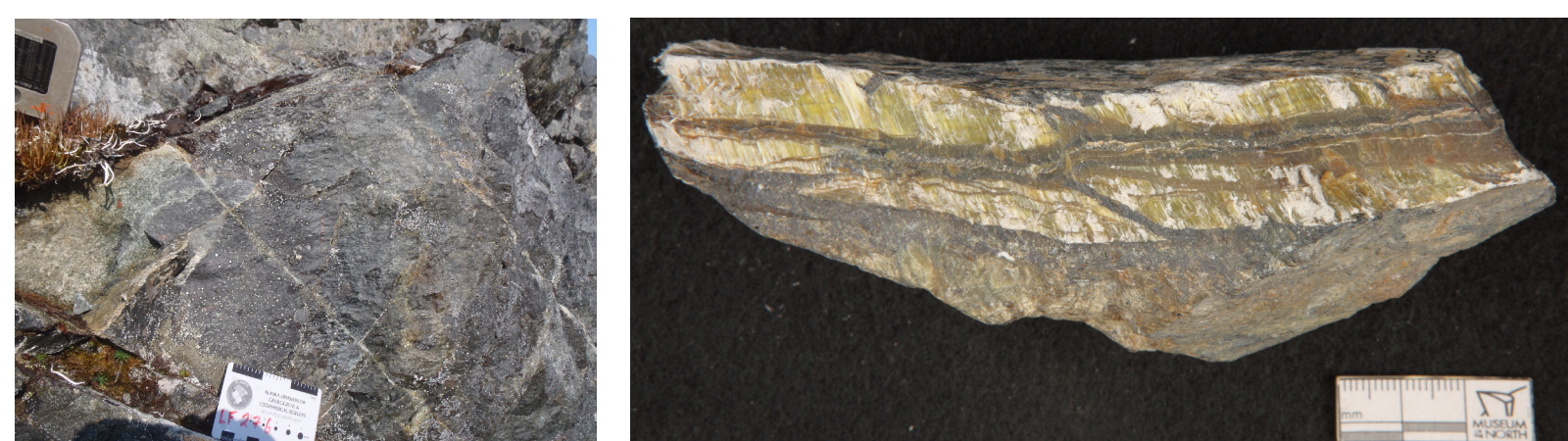
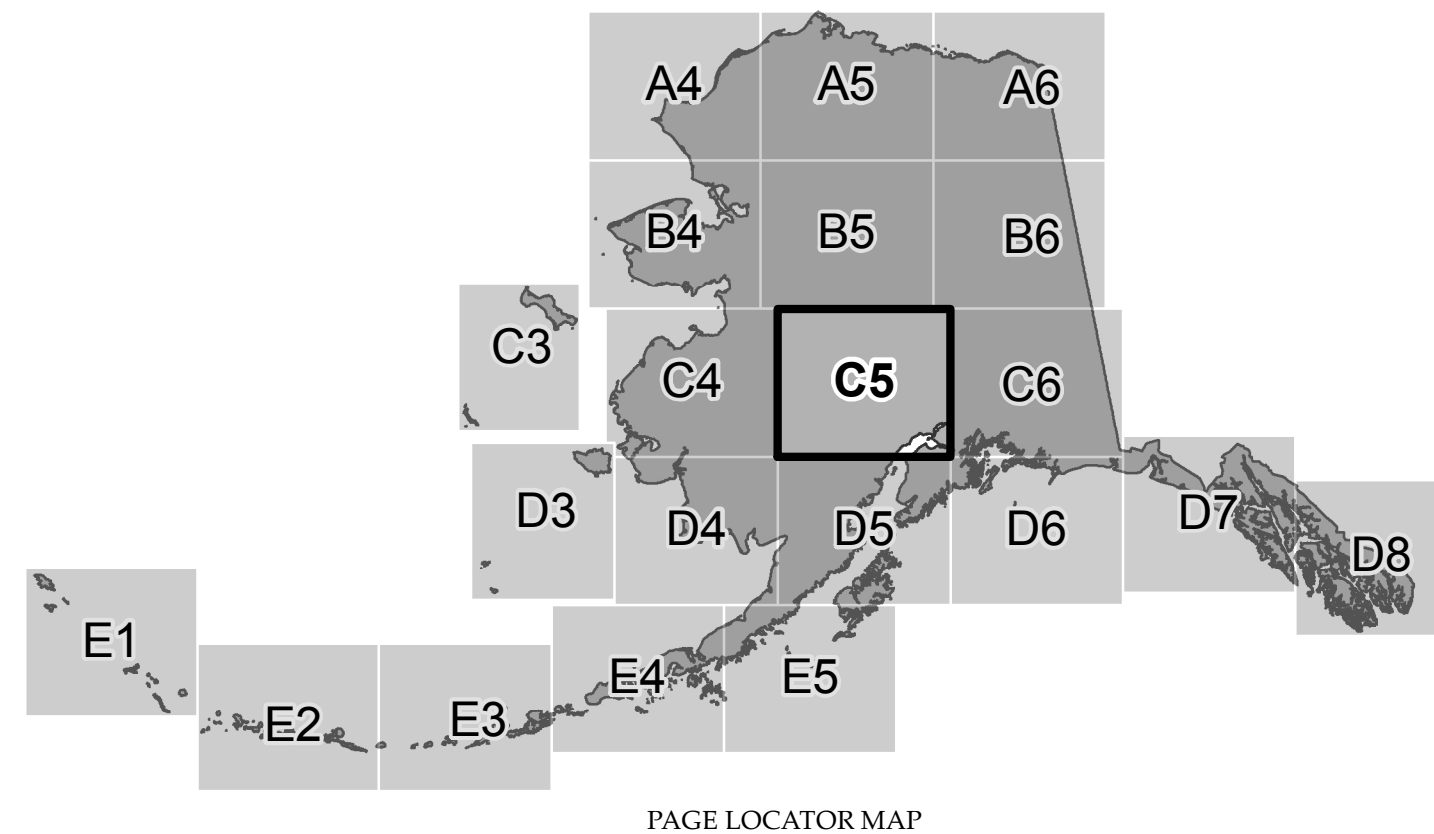
(see Appendix 1 for more detailed criteria)

Note: Not all units or symbols appear on each map sheet

- HIGH TO KNOWN**—Map units consisting entirely of, or containing a major amount (>50%) of, rock types known to host asbestos elsewhere in the world.
- MEDIUM**—Map units consisting of more than one rock type, where at least one rock type within the unit is NOA-favorable, or a unit including the types of rocks that could host NOA in areas affected by metasomatism, metamorphism, or deformation.
- ZERO TO LOW**—Map units containing zero to trace (<1%) amounts of highly NOA-favorable rock types, minor (1–10%) to major (>10%) amounts of low-NOA-favorable rock types, and rock types that are unfavorable for NOA.
- SURFICIAL DEPOSITS**—Map units, generally Quaternary (up to 2.4 million years) in age, consisting of unconsolidated surficial deposits. These units have not been evaluated for NOA potential, and could contain asbestos, depending on origin of the sediments.
- UNKNOWN**—Units with no identified rock type, most commonly because the areas have not been geologically mapped.
- ICE**—Glacial ice. Not evaluated for NOA potential.

MAP SYMBOLS

- ASBESTOS**—NOA occurrences from Alaska Resource Data File, showing identification number
- DEPOSITS**—NOA occurrences from Mineral Resource Data System, showing deposit identification number
- Cities or regional population centers**
- Towns**
- Limited Access Road**
- Major Road**
- Highway**
- Stream or River**
- Major Lakes**



Five-grained Truesdell microgranitic rock, with orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, and interstitial plagioclase. Ultramylonite rock is altered by epidote and pyroxene. Although this rock does not contain visible asbestos-forming minerals, it has the right chemistry to form them given the current metamorphic conditions. Photo collected during 2014 DGGS mapping in the Tulukina Mountains C-4 Quadrangle (photograph taken 07/21/2014 by L. K. Freeman).

Chrysotile in serpentinite (UAMES 34964) collected from Comas Creek, Comas Hills area, Kobuk District, Alaska, by Edith Anderson. Occurrence likely corresponds to Alaska Resource Data File number ARD11. Image courtesy of the University of Alaska Museum Earth Sciences Department.



Outcrop of serpentinite with a vein of chrysotile on the south side of Chapman Creek tributary of the North Fork of the Porcupine River, Eagle Quadrangle, Alaska. MRDS Deposit ID 04282322. Discovery of this outcrop led to the Chapman Creek asbestos project drilled in 1981 on Brown land. Photograph taken by Bob Rogers, summer 1980 (recovered slide photo). Image courtesy of Deon, Limited.

Chrysotile (UAMES 34962) collected from Dahl Creek, Comas Hills area, Kobuk District, Alaska, by Edith Anderson. There are several asbestos occurrences on Dahl Creek. ARDF numbers ARD16, SH902, and SH903. Image courtesy of the University of Alaska Museum Earth Sciences Department.

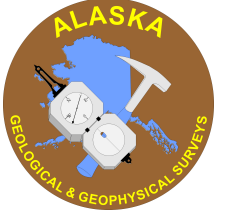


Tremolite collected from a marble unit near Fairbanks, Alaska (photograph taken 10/01/2014 by J.E. Athey).

Serpentinite with thin asbestos veins. Sample collected from between the villages of Manley Hot Springs and Tunana in the Tunana A-3 Quadrangle, Alaska, by P.A.C. Burns. Photo taken by D.N. Solie. Approximate location 65.121322°N, 151.024601°W (WGS84).

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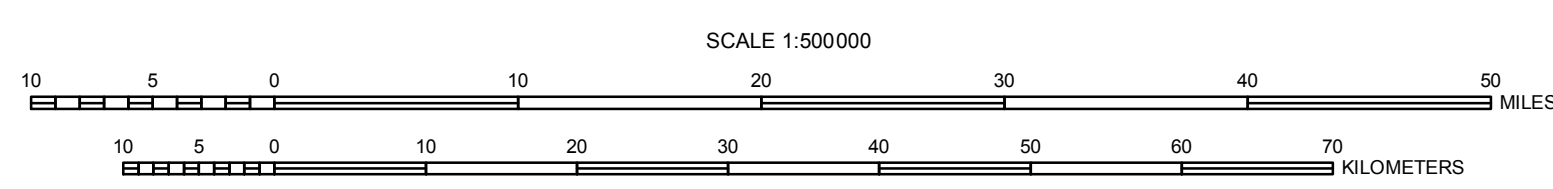
Publications produced by the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) are available for free download from the DGGS website (dggis.alaska.gov). Publications on hardcopy or digital media can be examined or purchased in the Fairbanks office.



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PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF BEDROCK POTENTIAL FOR NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS IN ALASKA

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2015



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Topographic base map from:
Rert USA Base Map (roads, cities, lakes, rivers), Alaska
National Elevation Dataset (hillshade)
Projection:
Alaska Albers
Datum:
North American Datum of 1983
Compiled by:
D.N. Solie and J.E. Athey² (2014, 2015)
Geologic GIS data layers created by:
D.N. Solie¹, L. Richelberg², and T.C. Wright² (2014)
Cartography by:
P.E. Gallagher² (2014, 2015)
Editorial review by:
P.E. Gallagher² (2014, 2015)
Peer Reviewed by:
D.S.P. Stevens² (2015) and B. Van Gosen² (2015)