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ADEQ Director Owens Announces Asbestos Awareness Seminars under ADEQ's Route 66 Asbestos Initiative

PHOENIX -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that ADEQ is launching a series of Asbestos Awareness Seminars to help demolition and renovation contractors and small communities comply with asbestos regulations.

So far three seminars are scheduled, in partnership with the Arizona chapter of the Environmental Information Association:

- April 18, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Holbrook Library, 403 Park St., Holbrook
- June 13, Sedona/Cottonwood, location to be determined
- August 15, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., City of Kingman Council Chambers, 310 N. 4th St., Kingman

These seminars are free but registration is required. Registration for the seminar in Holbrook is required on or before April 14. For additional information, please visit www.eia-az.org or contact ADEQ at ecm@azdeq.gov.

Director Owens launched the Route 66 Asbestos Initiative last October to address potential asbestos problems in small communities throughout Arizona and ensure that asbestos-containing material is handled and disposed of properly.

Owens said: "Many small communities across the state have older buildings they want to preserve, renovate or even demolish that contain asbestos. If asbestos is not handled properly during a renovation or demolition, it can present a huge risk to public health, as well as cause the site to become contaminated. Through the Route 66 Initiative we are providing technical assistance to communities to ensure that asbestos is dealt with safely and properly and, if there is contamination, find ways to help the community clean up the site."

Owens noted that as part of the asbestos initiative, ADEQ has designated an outreach specialist in its air-quality division to provide technical assistance, outreach and asbestos education to rural communities. "We want local officials to contact us if they have any questions about potential asbestos problems in their communities," Owens said. "We also want them to alert us about any improper demolition or renovation activities that can present a risk of asbestos exposure to people."

The seminars are designed for contractors but are open to anyone seeking information about compliance with the asbestos regulations.