



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date: February 13, 2012

To: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Chair – Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee

Subject: Amending Title 3, Chapter 46 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Air Pollution and Environmental Protection: Hazardous Waste Generation, Handling, Storage and Disposal

Recommendation: Accept staff recommendations on removal of exterior asbestos containing siding and disposal of materials.

Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by: Lisa Smestad, Manager of Environmental Services – (612) 673-3733

Approved by:

Gregory K. Stubbs, AICP, Director of Regulatory Services

Dana Banwer, Director of Licenses and Environmental Services

Daniel Huff, Manager of Environmental Management and Safety

Presenters in Committee: Lisa Smestad

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals – This ordinance amendment falls under the goal “A safe place to call home” by making it easier for staff to enforce state asbestos regulations when this hazardous material is being mishandled.

Supporting Information

Proposed amendment of Title 3, Chapter 46 for concerning removal and disposal of asbestos siding

Asbestos is a set of six naturally occurring silicate minerals used commercially for their desirable physical properties, such as fire resistance. The inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious illnesses.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regulates the removal of asbestos containing materials and is primarily concerned with friable (easily broken) materials inside properties. Asbestos shingles are considered non-friable unless broken or damaged during removal. In general the MDH does not investigate removal of asbestos shingles of residential properties.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regulates the disposal of asbestos containing materials.

Environmental Services receives about 5 complaints a year from callers concerned about removal of asbestos shingles from the exterior of buildings. In general residents are concerns with:

- Asbestos particles become airborne due to improper removal techniques.
- Asbestos particles and debris are left on the site.
- Illegal disposal of asbestos containing materials.

Proposed ordinance amendments will:

- Require use of proper removal techniques to prevent shingles becoming friable.
- Allow revocation of external siding permits if proper methods are not being used.
- Require a landfill disposal receipt from an appropriate waste site.