

**BEFORE THE OREGON DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

ORDER EXTENDING A TEMPORARY )  
VARIANCE TO CERTAIN ASBESTOS )  
REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020 WILDFIRE )  
CLEANUP )

On October 9, 2020, the Environmental Quality Commission (Commission) approved a temporary variance from certain asbestos requirements in ORS 468A.715(1) and OAR Chapter 340, Division 248 in order to expedite debris cleanup following severe wildfires in September 2020 that caused significant damage to residential and commercial structures in Oregon (Variance).

Pursuant to paragraphs A(2) and B(2) of the Variance, the Commission suspended the asbestos requirements described in the Variance from October 9, 2020 through October 1, 2021.

In Section D of the Variance, the Commission delegated authority to the Director to modify the date parameters provided in paragraphs A(2) and B(2) of the Variance, if the Director determines, based on the factors in ORS 468A.075(1)(a) and (b), that the Variance is no longer necessary or that the deadline in the Variance should be extended.

Cleanup efforts are ongoing in the areas affected by the 2020 wildfires and are not expected to be completed until the summer of 2022. Specifically, “Step 2” of the government-funded cleanup process, related to ash and debris removal, has not been completed in all areas impacted by the 2020 wildfires.

In those areas where cleanup is not yet complete, the asbestos requirements suspended in the Variance remain overly burdensome or impractical in the context of ash and debris clean up, as further detailed in the Commission’s Findings in support of the Variance.

Pursuant to Section D of the Variance, I hereby order that the end date provided in paragraphs A(2) and B(2) of the Variance is extended to July 31, 2022.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2021.



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Richard Whitman, Director  
Department of Environmental Quality