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## **ATC Professionals Selected to Participate In EPA "Blue Ribbon Panel" Of Asbestos Industry Experts**



*Dave Hogue (left) & Thomas Laubenthal (right).*

Dave Hogue, National Director and Tom Laubenthal, Technical Director of [The Environmental Institute](#) (ATC's Southeast Training Division) were selected to participate in a 12-person EPA "blue ribbon" panel of asbestos industry experts. Both Dave Hogue and Tom Laubenthal are active members of the Environmental Information Association, Inc. (EIA), the organization the EPA approached for this task. The EIA was originally the National Asbestos Council Inc. and is the principal industry organization that represents asbestos control professionals nationwide through the parent organization and its Chapters. Many of the most important papers published and conference sessions

presented on the asbestos issue have been through the NAC/EIA

The "blue ribbon" panel was asked to assist in the review and possible rewrite of the EPA "Purple Book" (PB). The EIA and many members of this blue ribbon panel have had significant influence on a variety of regulations, guidance documents and methodologies issued by federal agencies and industry associations. Most panel members have more than 25 years in the industry and represent the main voices on the issue. The panel will initially review the PB and make recommendations to the EPA regarding necessary changes. If a decision is made by the EPA that a re-write is necessary, it is likely that the EIA panel will be asked to serve as the industry experts and assist in that effort. The Purple Book; "Guidance for Controlling Asbestos-Containing Materials in Buildings" (EPA 560/5-85-024) was originally published in June of 1985. The PB represented the knowledge of the industry at the time it was published. The document is comprehensive and includes information describing the nature of asbestos, health effects, uses of asbestos, building surveys for asbestos and asbestos management and control practices. Although some sections are still germane, there have been many significant changes to work practice issues and regulations in the past 24 years. Therefore, it is likely to be significantly or completely re-written.

[ATC Associates Inc. \(ATC\)](#) is a multi-disciplinary, science and engineering firm committed to helping clients accelerate sustainable business strategies by offering expertise in these areas: Environmental Management, Geotechnical Engineering, Construction Materials Testing & Special Inspection, Roofing & Water Proofing Consulting, Industrial Hygiene & Occupational Health and Environmental Health & Safety Training. For more than a quarter of a century, ATC has supported high profile projects throughout the US. ATC has more than 1,800 engineers, scientists, technicians, health and safety professionals in 68 offices and 36 states, along with a network of training facilities and analytical laboratories. Year after year, *Engineering News-Record* ranks ATC among the top 100 design and environmental consultants nationwide.

For additional information, visit [ATC Associates Inc.](#), phone 770-427-9456, extn. 7624 or email [linda.bowman@atcassociates.com](mailto:linda.bowman@atcassociates.com).