greatly increased the fiber count of water transmitted through the pipes.

- Drilling and tapping AC pipe can introduce asbestos-containing debris into a pipe unless fragments are flushed out under pressure. Flushing water mains containing AC debris can cause unusually high fiber counts. Eventual dismantlement of deteriorated AC pipe will require special handling precautions.

- Peer reviewed animal studies do not at this time support an association between ingested asbestos and gastrointestinal cancer. Epidemiologic studies are equivocal. For example, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS, 1983) in the draft report entitled, "Nonoccupational Health Risks of Asbestos Fibers" stated:

> Because of limitations inherent in the size of exposed populations, the duration of exposure and the lack of individual exposure data, it has not been possible to determine whether or not there is an association between gastrointestinal cancers in humans and the presence of asbestiform fibers in drinking water.

However, the Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising From the Use of Asbestos in Ontario (1984) stated:

> After reviewing all the available medical evidence, the commission concludes that eating or drinking asbestos in the concentration currently found in drinking water, beverages, or food in North American is not associated with any significant increase in disease. Many studies have looked for a relationship between oral ingestion and disease, but so far the results are negative.

- EPA recommends that AC pipe not be used for potable water mains and has sent a draft regulation prohibiting this to the Office of Management and Budget for approval.

- Good substitute materials are available. Depending on circumstances, Engineering Department personnel recommend reinforced concrete, concrete-lined steel or PVC pipe.