

May 28, 1968

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I thought you might be interested in the attached article pertaining to the relationship of asbestos and cancer.

Inasmuch as this touches on air pollution, it is one more thing we have to be mindful of.

J. T. Gresh

JTG/hz
attach.

cc Ref. Asbestosis & Air Dust

ASBESTOS PARTICLES IN AIR SUSPECTED AS OVARY CANCER CAUSE

Asbestos particles may be released into the air to help cause cancer of the ovaries every time motorists slam on the brakes, Dr. John B. Graham, of State University of New York at Buffalo, told an American Cancer Society seminar in San Diego, Calif., Mar. 27. Dr. Graham said the case against asbestos has not been proved, but the evidence is strong.

Dr. Graham stated that, "Asbestos is ubiquitous in our environment and it is virtually indestructible." Other common sources noted, in addition to brake lining, are air conditioning system filters, duct and wiring insulation, plastic floor tile and scores of similar products. Use of asbestos has increased a thousand times since last century, while ovarian cancer has also dramatically increased during the past 100 years, he reported.

As basis for his suspicion, Dr. Graham said that asbestos particles, which other experts say can be absorbed into body's digestive, circulatory and respiratory systems, have been found in tissues surrounding ovarian tumors. He told the delegates that injection of finely ground asbestos into laboratory animals has been followed by malignant changes in the animals' ovaries. Cancer of the ovaries now ranks third in cancer deaths among women, and has quadrupled in the U.S. and Western Europe since 1900. This increase among western women, compared with its rarity among Asian and Latin American women, suggests a cause peculiar to occidental culture, he said.

Dr. W.A.D. Anderson, of University of Miami, noted that an increased incidence of lung cancer among asbestos workers was discovered back in 1963. Asbestos fibers have been found in lungs of 31% of men and 20% of women participating in a Miami study, he said. In other cities the percentages have been higher.

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RESOURCES RESEARCH UNDERTAKES AMBIENT AIR STANDARD PROJECT FOR MCA

A project to assist in development of effective ambient air quality standards on a state and regional basis, and thus complement individual chemical company programs, is being undertaken by Resources Research, Inc., Reston, Va., under contract to the Manufacturing Chemists Association. The project will be directed principally to collection and evaluation of data on air quality criteria, control technology and economic feasibility, for use by industry in liaison and consultations with state and regional air quality boards and officials. Major purpose is to facilitate discussions with state and regional officials in developing ambient air quality standards by the states for Federal approval under the Air Quality Act of 1967. RRI will also assist in preparation of testimony representing industry views in public hearings.

MCA noted that for years the industry has maintained contact with state air quality activities through such technical committees as its Air Quality Committee, but that this is the first contract for supplementary services designed particularly to extend the committee's cooperative efforts in air pollution control standards.

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NADER PREDICTS CONGRESSIONAL HEARING INTO STEAM ENGINE SUPPRESSION

Ralph Nader, car safety crusader, attacked the auto industry for allegedly suppressing innovations in control of pollution from automotive exhausts, in speech at University of Miami, Mar. 26. He told his audience of about 300 that, "Around the corner is the advanced steam engine, but in spite of its having 1% of the pollution, none of the noise and less expense than the internal combustion engine, Detroit is stifling its development because it has too much money tied up in the internal combustion engine."

Nader predicted, "there will be a Congressional hearing on that that will rip inside the chrome curtain of secrecy."

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GMC DETECTS NEW POTENT EYE IRRITANT IN LOS ANGELES-TYPE SMOG

A new eye irritant, peroxybenzoyl nitrate, has been identified by General Motors Corp. researchers as present in Los Angeles-type photochemical smog. J.M. Heuss and W.A. Glasson, in paper presented to American Chemical Society meeting last week, said the compound was isolated after lengthy tests with a smog chamber and was found to cause "moderate to severe" discomfort in concentrations as low as 2 ppm. The four major auto companies are seeking to isolate causes and ingredients of photochemical smog as part of research aimed at cleaning up automotive combustion.

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