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FOR JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

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TOUGH REGULATIONS COVERING ASBESTOS SPRAYING ARE ISSUED

LYLE VAN: Dr. Robert Rickels, new Air Pollution Control Commissioner of New York City, has issued a series of tough new regulations covering the spraying of asbestos at construction sites. He says when a building under construction is sprayed with asbestos in a congested area, such as downtown Manhattan, hundreds of thousands of people inhale the indestructible particles. Doctors at Mount Sinai Hospital who have been working on the problem say that no patient who has ever come down with the disease caused by asbestos inhalation has ever recovered. They say death usually comes in about two years.

Rickels says asbestos poisoning is worse than cigarette smoking. Asbestos is sprayed on the steel skeleton of buildings under construction to protect the steel from damage by heat or fire. Rickels says there are known methods of treating the steel besides the use of asbestos, but he says they are more expensive. He says he will leave it up to the industry to solve the problem. But in the meantime, it will have to provice safeguards while the asbestos is being used.