

Kaiser Sued For Asbestos Contamination Resulting From Ceiling Texture

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

KG-174

Coating under fire..

Federal and New Jersey environmental officials revealed last week that they have found asbestos in dust sampled at a Cliffside Park, N.J., condominium. The material came from the flaking of a decorative ceiling, which contained 5-30% asbestos as applied. New Jersey's Environmental Protection Dept. says it began tests after initial data showing asbestos contamination were supplied by attorneys for condominium owners, who filed suit in Bergen County Superior Court (Hackensack, N.J.) related to charges of contamination in the building.

State tests, which found a "high percentage" of asbestos, confirmed results of an initial study conducted by Mt. Sinai Medical School's Environmental Sciences Laboratory (New York), which is partially funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA observes that while present regulations ban spraying of asbestos for several purposes, such as insulation and fireproofing, the rules do not cover use for decorative purposes.

EPA conducted earlier studies of drinking water and talc for contamination by asbestos, which has been linked with a rare form of chest and abdominal cancer (CIV, May 12, p. 28).

Kaiser Cement & Gypsum confirms that it is a defendant in the condominium suit; and that a Kaiser ceiling texture product, called K-spray, is named in the suit. Other defendants: the condominium developer and the spray applicator.

Source: Chemical Week Magazine, Sept. 29, 1976, p.21
