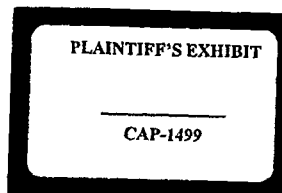




A/C Pipe
Producers Association

Public Affairs Committee
TO: International Affairs Committee

FROM: *J. F. Welch*
J. F. Welch, Vice President



Internal Correspondence

DATE: November 12, 1981

SUBJECT: Field Problem - Ocean County, New Jersey

REF: JFW correspondence, Field Problem - Brick Township (Ocean County), New Jersey, August 18, 1981

ACTION REQUIRED: Review for information

Enclosed is an editorial recently forwarded to Staff by the Toms River Water Company. It purports to be an "update" on the asbestos in drinking water issue. While the editor's views about the potential hazards of ingested asbestos appear to have tempered somewhat, it is dismaying (but not surprising) to see the Ocean County Reporter tacitly endorsing the need for filters to remove asbestos from local drinking water. Staff does not intend to respond to the articles.

Staff also received a copy of the report of the Citizen's of Brick Township for Asbestos - Free Water, and the Township Council's statement that "there is not sufficient evidence to warrant replacement of the asbestos (cement) pipe." The Citizen's of Brick Township report is approximately 40 pages in length and relies heavily on scientific references published by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Mount Sinai Environmental Health Sciences Laboratory. The report's cover sheet, index and conclusion are enclosed. Complete copies are available from AACPP upon request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

JFW/ajb

Enclosures

cc: A. Kahn, Esq.
N. Rahn, Esq.
N. Battle
M. Greenberg, Esq.

copies to: Public Affairs Committee

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HEGA/6
Chrono

Ocean County, NJ

Editorial

Still concerned?

Here's what to do

By Dr. JONATHAN ALLEN

Asbestos contamination of drinking water continues to worry residents of Ocean and Burlington counties.

Many communities in these counties have used asbestos water pipes in their drinking water systems. Some waters will corrode the insides of these pipes, releasing asbestos fibers into the water stream.

Since inhaled asbestos is a well-known carcinogen, many people fear ingested asbestos may be dangerous as well. Thus, to be on the safe side, some customers served by asbestos-cement pipes have been buying bottled water.

Bottled water is expensive. An alternative approach would be to install a filter on the water line coming into the home. Ordinary filters will not serve the purpose. Charcoal does not remove fibers, such as asbestos. Ordinary filters designed to remove particulate matter are only partially effective in removing the extremely small (less than .5 micron) fibers which typically erode from the walls of water pipes.

A new line of filters has been developed specifically to remove very small fibers, such as eroded asbestos. They are being produced by Universal Filter, Inc. of 1225 Main St., Asbury Park, under the trade name of Fin-L-Filter.

The manufacturer says the .2 micron pore filter elements are able to remove virtually all asbestos from the flowing water. The filter elements are of standard dimensions and thus will fit either Universal's holder or those of other manufacturers, such as Cuno or Commercial.

While Fin-L-Filter elements are available as cartridges which fit directly into standard filter holders, consumers

will find it more economical in the long run to purchase filter bags, Type SB 0.2 Z. These are both cheaper and longer lasting than the cartridges, though they require a one-time investment in a conversion kit which allows them to be installed in the standard filter-holder housing.

If one were to install such a filter, it would be most economical to have it serve just one designated tap, such as the cold water tap of the kitchen sink. There is no point in depleting the filter's capacity by having it filter water for washing or for flushing toilets.

Although these filters are only available wholesale, citizens of a town with asbestos problems could get together to meet the minimum purchase requirements (about 10 units) either through their own organization or through a local hardware or plumbing dealer.

While the initial investment per household might be as high as \$100, it will be far cheaper in the long run than buying bottled water, which can cost \$500 a year.

Towns that use asbestos-cement pipes are probably not going to replace those pipes for many years, and so investment in a filter now will serve consumers for a long time into the future.

Filter users should remember that if they do not change the filter element, the filter will eventually clog. Follow manufacturer's instruction.

...

Jonathan Allen is a Princeton-area physicist whose work has included studies of fibrous pollutants, such as asbestos and fiberglass. This article has been reprinted from New Jersey Hazardous Waste News, published by the Environmental Research Foundation of Lawrenceville, N.J.

...And a look ahead

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, director of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, will speak at the eighth annual New Jersey Environmental Congress today, Saturday, at 1 p.m. at the Summit Suburban Hotel in Summit.

Gubernatorial candidates James Florio, Democrat, and Thomas Kean, Republican, will make addresses, too.

The congress is sponsored by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions.

It was at Mount Sinai last year tests showed high

asbestos counts in the water supply of Toms River Water Co. After reports were published, however, Mount Sinai said a reporter's error in interpretation had occurred, and asbestos fiber counts were lower.

The original report cited 4.5 million asbestos fibers per liter (a liter is about a

gallon), but later reports put the actual asbestos fiber count at less than 200,000.

Dr. Selikoff, who has worked nearly 30 years in research on the incidence of respiratory disease among asbestos factory workers, will present new research on chemicals that have been linked to cancer. Selikoff will also discuss the complex issues of responsibility for environmentally-caused diseases.

Registration at \$15 (\$20 with lunch) starts at 8:30 a.m.

Florio and Kean will discuss their programs for the state's environment

R OCEAN COUNTY
REPORTER

LEONARD GOLDBLATT, Publisher
KENNETH J. MOORE, Editor
FRANK MONTARELLI, News Editor

The Reporter is an independent newspaper established in 1956
Published semi-weekly, every Wednesday and Saturday

An update?

To The Editor:

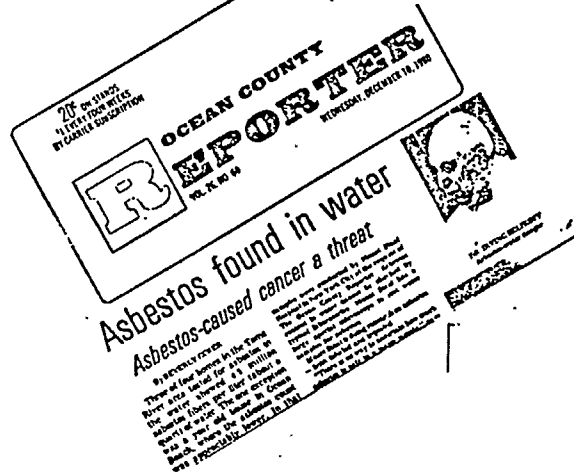
The series of articles in your paper last fall and winter caused quite a stir. Many of us questioned whether it was safe to drink the water with the reportedly high content of asbestos fibers. Then came the news, results of a related federal government study was expected in July 1981.

I have seen no further word in The Reporter on this subject.

Have I missed some assurance that our water is safe, despite your reported findings?

Philip Mangiapane
Whiting

Asbestos water pipes may be deadly time bomb



Position report

By KEN MOORE
Editor

Where are we now? A valid question. Unfortunately, it has to be answered thusly: *We're in practically the same place as we were a year ago.*

Your scenario left off last February. Since then, the Dover Township Committee requested the municipal Board of Health to pass an ordinance requiring annual water tests for asbestos content. The governing body was also awaiting a state report on minimum standards for asbestos content in potable water, which town fathers expected by July.

Brick Township was ordering more tests on its water supplies, which also run through asbestos-cement pipes, after early tests showed what was called "high" asbestos content in the water. Bayville's town fathers pooch-pooched the entire issue.

Today, Brick has a monitoring program to sample water from control areas, and the Dover Township Board of Health has not passed the requested ordinance. Nor has the state offered standards or minimums.

Health Officer Herbert Roeschke says the health board did not pass the ordinance because the cost of asbestos fiber tests is high (\$500 and up for each sample) and representatives of the privately-owned Toms River Water Co. vowed to make annual tests voluntarily.

The state says there is not enough research to establish safety standards for asbestos content in water, although there is for asbestos fibers in the air—and in fact, minimum standards for airborne asbestos has been reduced to even lower tolerances. Asbestos is a known carcinogen—in the air—but there is a lack of data for water-borne asbestos.

The state requires water utilities to test for many chemical toxins and acidity—hardness—but not for asbestos. The hardness tests, however, indicate the potential for water to "erode" asbestos-cement pipe walls and thus release asbestos fibers to into the water.

Toms River Water Co. continues its regular flushing of water mains which supposedly rids the system of asbestos fibers.

Last February, township asbestos tests showed 3 million asbestos fibers a liter in Toms River Water Co. supplies in Silverton, and an average of 340,000 fibers a liter in four other areas of the township. Silverton was cited as high because privately-owned fire hydrants there were not flushed. Mayor W. Thomas Renkin says that has changed now. Those hydrants are regularly flushed.

December 1980 tests commissioned by The Ocean County Reporter cited a range of 600,000 to 4.5 million fibers a liter from Toms River water, but Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, where The Reporter's tests were conducted, weeks later said results were misinterpreted and the tests showed about 200,000 fibers a liter—a figure said to be not-at-all dangerous to human health.

New test results can be anticipated in February in Toms River and Brick Township.

Air-borne asbestos is considered dangerous, but especially dangerous to cigarette smokers. A lack of research means no one can say the same of water-borne asbestos.

ASBESTOS IN BRICK TOWNSHIP'S DRINKING WATER AND CANCER

By

The Citizens Of Bricktown For Asbestos Free Water
(The Clean Water Group)

Mr. Joseph J. Potoczniak, Chairman
Mrs. Rosiland Thomson
Mr. Frank Martin
Mrs. Maria Martin
Mrs. Joyce Kenny
Mr. Paul Yankowski

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24. CONCLUSION

We have a moral and ethical obligation to make a judgement regarding ingested and inhaled asbestos. It would be tantamount to criminal behavior to allow the situation to continue on its present course. "As scientists we could shrug our academic shoulders and say that there is insufficient evidence for a firm judgement. As persons concerned with the preservation of human health, however, we cannot escape the responsibility for making the best judgement that we can with the information we have..."²⁹

Cancer is a label assigned many types of similiar diseases, for which the origin is rarely ever known, but all too often the conclusion is. The occurrence of cancer has increased with the increase of additives to our foods, air, and materials we use to enjoy our life. It is not the price we pay for our "level of living." It is the price we pay to keep our heads in the sand and our indifference at full throttle. If an invasion force from another country were to kill a few million of our citizens, we would demand retribution. If someone puts a slow acting poison into our systems and tells us that they are not to blame, we calmly accept it.

We are in a war against not only cancer and the materials that cause it, but the people who smile and politely tell you that there is no other way. We are against profiteering greed at the expense of others's lives and the indifference that people often have when they feel there is no alternative.

"The epidemic of asbestos related disease is a public health failure rather than a failure of the medical profession... even though it is known to be a serious health hazard. We are trapped by the substance. It crept into our building, our schools, our homes, and our cars, and we have made an unconcious decision to accept some level of mortality as the price we must pay for its usefulness..."⁴¹

Connecticut has passed a law that prohibits the installation of Asbestos Cement pipes. Hopefully, New Jersey will also. For us in Bricktown, however, that will not suffice. We want the menace to be removed from our drinking water. We ask that the same type of pipe that is being used to bring us the water in over 90% of our township, namely iron ductile pipe, be used to replace the 10% Asbestos Cement pipes that contribute asbestos to our water supply. Should there be any asbestos that naturally occurs in our ground water from which

we draw our supply, that it be filtered to provide pure clean water. We already have outrageously high water bills and there may be good reason to complain about them. But for the small amount of increase to our annual cost, we could at least be rid of this danger to our health.