



A/C Pipe
Producers Association

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CAP-1377

Internal Correspondence

TO Public Affairs Committee
International Affairs Committee

FROM J. F. Welch, Director, Public Affairs

DATE August 18, 1981

SUBJECT: Field Problem - Brick Township (Ocean County), New Jersey

REF: JFW correspondence, same title, July 9, 1981

ACTION REQUIRED: Review for information

Enclosed are two articles from the Asbury Park Press describing the resolution of this field problem. Staff has requested a copy of the report of the Citizens of Brick Township for Asbestos-Free Water, as well as the Township Council statement.

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

JFW/ajb

Enclosure

cc: A. Kahn, Esq.
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M. Greenberg, Esq.
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copies to: Public Affairs Committee

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CAPCO JEN 0013203

Council finds asbestos data means pipes pose no threat

BRICK TOWNSHIP — The Township Council says it has determined that the asbestos pipes carrying water to about 10 percent of the township present no health hazard.

However, Council President Joseph Scarpelli said, in stating the council's position, that the issue "is an emotional topic of significant concern which warrants continual, factual study."

Based on its conclusions, the council determined there is not sufficient evidence to warrant replacing the pipes at this time.

Joseph Potoczniak, chairman of Citizens of Brick Township for Asbestos-Free Water, said he was disappointed.

The council, he said, did not recognize the studies the citizens' group noted in its 40-page report on the possibility of contracting cancer from ingesting asbestos.

Potoczniak, an industrial engineer with a master's degree in science management from Stevens Institute of Technology, and

other members of the asbestos-free water group met with a committee of council members two weeks ago.

The asbestos pipes were put in the ground by private companies. The township eventually incorporated the pipes into the municipal water system.

Although only about 10 percent of the township has asbestos water pipes, the system is a series of loops, so water going to other parts of the township also travels through the section with asbestos.

In a statement it released, the council reached three conclusions:

- Asbestos, a mineral, is in the water naturally and may be introduced into the water system by the asbestos cement pipes.

- There is no "direct scientific evidence which links the ingestion of asbestos fibers to cancer" according to a National Institute of Health study released in July.

- However, "based on present levels of scientific knowledge, it is not conclusively

proven that the ingestion of asbestos fibers is safe."

Poloczniak, who relied heavily on a variety of scientific studies linking the ingestion of asbestos to cancer, said there is disagreement among scientists as to the validity of the methods used in the National Institute of Health study.

Council members and members of the Municipal Utilities Authority have estimated that it would cost each homeowner in the township \$80 a year for 40 years to replace the asbestos pipes.

The council made three formal requests in concluding its report:

- The utility should continue monitoring and testing the water for asbestos fibers.

- The utility, relying on various governmental agencies and the citizens' group, should keep abreast of research on the effects of asbestos.

- The utility should "seek to alternate asbestos fiber filtration systems."

Scarpelli stressed that "the issue has not been swept under the rug."

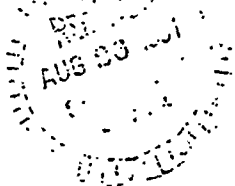
Councilwoman Mary Anne Butler, who met with the asbestos-free water group, said she is continuing to organize a survey to determine whether the incidences of cancer has been higher in some sections of the township.

Potoczniak, who said he plans to release another report on his group's research, will speak on the subject 8 p.m. tomorrow at the regular meeting of the Democratic Club.

All may attend the meeting in the Municipal Complex.

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John Walsh
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Asbury Park Press
Wed., July 29, 1981

Citizens calling for removal of asbestos

By JOSEPH CAVALUZZI
Press Staff Writer

BRICK TOWNSHIP — To the officials who would have to ask residents for \$5 million to replace asbestos water pipes, there is a question as to whether asbestos causes cancer when ingested.

But to several residents who have spent months preparing a detailed, 40-page report on the removal of asbestos cement pipes, there is little question.

"The amount needed to start cancer will always be a hot issue," said Joseph J. Potoczniak, chairman of Citizens of Bricktown for Asbestos Free Water, adding that research on inhalation is more prevalent than research on ingestion.

Either way, Potoczniak told Township Council members David Wolfe, Mary Anne Butler and Charles Anderson that the cancer-causing fibers wind up in the blood.

"The general conclusion that we're drawing here is if you are exposed to large quantities over a short period of time, it's the same as being exposed to small quantities over a long period," he said.

"It may take 20 to 50 years before the effects are known," he said.

Andrew R. Ciesla, executive director of the Municipal Utilities Authority, said the real issue is not whether asbestos, a known carcinogen, is in the township's water but whether it causes cancer when ingested.

"I don't think there is enough evidence that it presents a health hazard," Ciesla said after the discussion.

He agreed, however, that Potoczniak made a good point when he noted that a federal Environmental Protection Agency study states 8 to 9 percent of the country's asbestos workers get gastrointestinal cancer.

The township purchased the pipes in question 30 years ago when it took over a private water company, Wolfe said. Today, those pipes make up about 10 percent of township's water system.

There are levels of asbestos in water samples taken throughout the township, Ciesla said.

However, he said, it is too early to say whether the levels, which average 200,000 fibers per liter, are significant.

Some samples, taken in Sutton Village, revealed levels of 700,000 fibers per liter, Ciesla said.

"If particles are breaking off the pipes they would go through the entire township because the water system is looped," he said.

But, Ciesla said, the information does not necessarily mean the pipes are eroding.

Potoczniak called for the township to replace the asbestos cement pipes with ductile iron pipes.

On this, too, the experts differ, said William Miller, authority chairman.

The ductile pipes are coated with a seal that may leak polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and plastic pipes may leak vinyl chloride into the water, Miller said.

Mrs. Butler said the council should consider surveying the area with asbestos pipes to determine if the cancer rate there is greater than other sections of the township.

"It's not a question of money," Mrs. Butler said of replacing the pipes. "I don't want to find out in 20 years that we sat here and did nothing and that our kids are developing cancer."

"I'm willing to pay out of my own pocket. I think it's that serious," Wolfe said.

It would cost \$5 million to replace the pipes, at a cost to each resident of \$22 a year for 40 years.

Developments with asbestos pipes include Hollywood Manor, Sky Manor, Greenbriar, Burnt Tavern Manor, Brian Mills north and south, and Sutton Village, Ciesla said.