

Asbestos Pollution to Be Next Target

The new asbestos regulations proposed by the Illinois Pollution Control Board will, for the first time in Illinois, aim at controlling a pollutant on a person-to-person basis.

The proposed regulations, which probably will be adopted in mid-December, provide for regulating the use of asbestos as it is manufactured, used in construction, and used in demolition procedures. During hearings earlier this year, several doctors linked asbestos with lung diseases, including cancer.

Covers Wide Variety

The regulations will go farther than Chicago's ordinance, which requires only that asbestos spraying be limited to enclosed areas.

Under the board's proposal, manufacturing plants and other facilities that use asbestos will be required to provide facilities where employees can change their work clothes.

Tim Harker, an aid to the board, said the provision was added because testimony indicated that asbestos workers and their wives have a higher incidence of lung diseases because they often come in contact with the substance.

Limit on Emissions

"This is a unique proposal," Harker said, "because it identifies the individual as a polluter."

Under the regulations, asbestos manufacturers would be allowed to emit no more than two fibers of asbestos for each cubic centimeter of air. Plants

also would be required to use the best available technology to limit asbestos discharge into water.

In construction trades, outside spraying of asbestos on buildings would be prohibited after March 31. If the material, in wall boards for example, is used during construction, it must be handled under a cover or in an enclosure. Visible emissions of asbestos would be a violation of regulations.

The regulations will require that buildings with asbestos be wetted and the asbestos stripped by hand during demolition.