PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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Products containing asbestos banned as cancer-cause suspects

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Consumer Product Safety Commission banned spackling compounds and other wall patching mixtures containing asbestos Thursday as possible causes of cancer.

Asbestos-containing imitation logs and ash used in gas-burning fireplaces also came under the ban and a list of other materials, such as vinyl tiles, wallboard, brake linings and modeling clay was named for investigation.

"This (asbestos) is probably one of the most well-documented toxic substances around," Commissioner David Pittle said. "You don't have to look at the rats, just look at the people."

The agency left open the question of whether consumers will be able to get refunds for banned products now in their possession.

The commission voted 4-0, with one commissioner absent, to accept a recommendation from the Natural Resources Defense Council to ban spackling compounds and similar mixtures with asbestos. The council said millions of consumers were being exposed to a needless hazard when such materials are installed, sanded or removed.

The commissioners also banned spackling compounds containing a form of asbestos called tremolitic talc.

The NRCD followed up by asking the commission to consider banning modeling clay, textured paints, brake shoes and linings, wallboard and other products containing asbestos.

It also said there was a potential problem with vinyl floor tile because the adhesive used with it contains asbestos.