

JUN 19 1982

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Business Report



■ Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige says he is "cautiously optimistic" an agreement can be reached with the European governments accused of illegally subsidizing steel exports to the United States. "I think the Europeans do want to settle these cases as well as the Americans," he said. The Commerce Department's preliminary ruling last week found that nine countries, including seven in the Common Market, unfairly subsidized steel exports to the United States. As a result, U.S. importers must post cash bonds equal to the estimated subsidy on the steel entering the United States.

■ The Virginia Electric & Power Co. announces earnings of 70.1 cents a share on common stock for the first five months of 1982, a 35 percent increase compared to the same five-month period of 1981. The utility reported net income of \$100.7 million for the first five months of 1982 on operating revenues of \$955.7 million.

■ Vinyl floor tiles containing asbestos are a previously unrecognized source of airborne asbestos fibers, a cause of crippling respiratory disease and lung cancer, researchers say. In a report published in Science magazine, French researchers say they have the first evidence that worn floor tiles can significantly contribute to the amount of asbestos people take into their lungs.

■ A small band of steelworkers rallied against contract concessions Friday as union leaders met to consider the faltering steel industry's request to negotiate lower wage costs. More than 500 local union presidents met in a private session convened by United Steelworkers President Lloyd McBride at a hotel across the street from the headquarters of U.S. Steel Corp. in Pittsburgh.



MARION, IND.
CHRONICLE-TRIBUNE
D. 23,653 — S. 26,997
MARION METROPOLITAN AREA

JUN 19 1982

Researchers say tiles asbestos source

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vinyl floor tiles containing asbestos are a previously unrecognized source of airborne asbestos fibers, a cause of crippling respiratory disease and lung cancer, researchers reported Friday. In a report published in Science magazine, French researchers say they have the first evidence that worn floor tiles can significantly contribute to the amount of asbestos people take into their lungs. Inhaled asbestos causes chronic lung diseases that impair breathing and can lead to lung cancer decades after the initial exposure, scientists say. Environmental health specialists have concentrated on detecting and neutralizing asbestos insulation and fire-retardant materials sprayed on ceilings without paying much attention to flooring, the researchers said.

Researchers say floor tiles may be asbestos source

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vinyl floor tiles containing asbestos are a previously unrecognized source of airborne asbestos fibers, a cause of crippling respiratory disease and lung cancer, researchers reported Friday.

In a report published in Science magazine, French researchers say they have the first evidence that worn floor tiles can significantly contribute to the amount of asbestos people take into their lungs.

Inhaled asbestos causes chronic lung diseases that impair breathing and can lead to lung cancer decades after the initial exposure, scientists say.

Environmental health specialists have concentrated on detecting and neutralizing asbestos insulation and fire-retardant materials sprayed on ceilings without paying much attention to flooring, the researchers said.

"The weathering of asbestos flooring under normal use patterns can yield concentrations of indoor airborne asbestos similar to those measured in sprayed buildings, which are the subject of much concern," said the report.

The researchers pointed out that in the United States, France and other countries concerned about asbestos pollution, monitoring programs are not designed to check for asbestos flooring.

The researchers, P. Sebastien, J. Bignon and M. Martin, of the Office of Sanitation and Social Affairs of Paris and other institutions, said they discovered the flooring problems while examining an office building 12 miles south of Paris.

The 10-year-old building, occupied by an engineering company, has ceilings sprayed with an asbestos-containing material. While the ceilings were found to contain only an asbestos fiber called crocidolite, air samples also showed the presence of another fiber called chrysotile.

This surprising finding put the scientists on a search for the source of the chrysotile fibers and, through the process of elimination, they worked down to the floors.

"The only material in the building that was found to contain chrysotile fibers was the vinyl floor tile," said the report. "We concluded that the short chrysotile fibers present in the air of the building had escaped from the vinyl matrix of the floor tiles."

Highest concentrations of fibers were found in floor areas where there was the most traffic and in places where the tile was scraped or broken, it noted.



PLAINFIELD, N.J.
COURIER-NEWS
— D. 58,877 —
NEWARK METROPOLITAN AREA

JUN 19 1982

Asbestos problem found in tiles

WASHINGTON — Vinyl floor tiles containing asbestos are a previously unrecognized source of airborne asbestos fibers, a cause of crippling respiratory disease and lung cancer, researchers reported yesterday.

In a report published in Science magazine, French researchers say they have the first evidence that worn floor tiles can significantly contribute to the amount of asbestos people take into their lungs.

Inhaled asbestos causes chronic lung diseases that impair breathing and can lead to lung cancer decades after the initial exposure, scientists say.

A 7678

UCC 007900

JUN 19 1982

Researchers say some vinyl floors are a source of airborne asbestos

By Warren E. Leary
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vinyl floor tiles containing asbestos are a previously unrecognized source of airborne asbestos fibers, a cause of respiratory disease and lung cancer, researchers reported yesterday.

In a report published in Science magazine, French researchers say they have the first evidence that worn floor tiles can significantly contribute to the amount of asbestos people take into their lungs.

Inhaled asbestos causes chronic lung diseases that impair breathing and can lead to lung cancer decades after the initial exposure, scientists say.

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have concentrated on detecting and neutralizing asbestos insulation and fire-retardant materials sprayed on ceilings without paying much attention to flooring, the researchers said.

"The weathering of asbestos flooring under normal use patterns can yield concentrations of indoor airborne asbestos similar to those measured in sprayed buildings, which are the subject of much concern," said the report.

The researchers, P. Sebastien, J. Bignon and M. Martin, of the Office of Sanitation and Social Affairs of Paris and other institutions, said they had discovered the flooring problems while examining an office building 12 miles south of Paris.

The 10-year-old building, occupied

by an engineering company, has ceilings sprayed with an asbestos-containing material. While the ceilings were found to contain only an asbestos fiber called crocidolite, air samples also showed the presence of another fiber called chrysotile.

This surprising finding put the scientists on a search for the source of the chrysotile fibers, and the process of elimination led them to the floors.

"The only material in the building that was found to contain chrysotile fibers was the vinyl floor tile," said the report. Highest concentrations of fibers were found in floor areas where there was the most traffic and in places where the tile was scraped or broken, it noted.



LEBANON, N.H.
VALLEY NEWS
D. 13,410

JUN 19 1982

Tiles May Release Asbestos Fibers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vinyl floor tiles containing asbestos are a previously unrecognized source of airborne asbestos fibers, a cause of crippling respiratory disease and lung cancer, researchers reported yesterday.

In a report published in Science magazine, French researchers say they have the first evidence that worn floor tiles can significantly contribute to the amount of asbestos people take into their lungs. Inhaled asbestos causes chronic lung diseases that impair breathing and can lead to lung cancer decades after the initial exposure, scientists say.

Environmental health specialists have concentrated on detecting and neutralizing asbestos insulation and fire-retardant materials sprayed on ceilings without paying much attention to flooring, the researchers said.

The researchers, P. Sebastien, J. Bignon and M. Martin, of the Office of Sanitation and Social Affairs of Paris and other institutions, said they discovered the flooring problems while examining an office building 12 miles south of Paris. The 10-year-old building has ceilings sprayed with an asbestos-containing material. While the ceilings were found to contain only an asbestos fiber called crocidolite, air samples also showed the presence of another fiber called chrysotile.

"The only material in the building that was found to contain chrysotile fibers was the vinyl floor tile," said the report. "We concluded that the short chrysotile fibers present in the air of the building had escaped from the vinyl matrix of the floor tiles."

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SOUTH BEND, IND.
TRIBUNE
D. 106,610—S. 126,434
SOUTH BEND METROPOLITAN AREA

JUN 20 1982

Old vinyl floors may leak asbestos

WASHINGTON (AP) — French researchers say they have found the first evidence that worn vinyl floor tile containing asbestos can release asbestos fibers into the air to cause crippling respiratory dis-

ease and lung cancer.

The report by P. Sebastien, J. Bignon and M. Martin of the Office of Sanitation and Social Affairs of Paris was published Friday in Science Magazine.

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French Research Report

Floor Tiles Cited as Source Of Airborne Asbestos Fibers

United Press International

Worn floor tiles containing asbestos appear to be a source of airborne asbestos fibers, a cause of lung cancer, three French researchers reported yesterday.

They said in the June 25 issue of Science magazine that if further studies confirm their findings, the use of asbestos flooring "could become an important environmental issue."

Inhalation of asbestos fibers has been blamed for relatively large numbers of cancer cases among asbestos workers.

The French researchers found the asbestos fibers in the air of an office building 12 miles south of Paris. The ceiling had been sprayed with asbestos-containing materials 10 years earlier and it was for that reason that the study was conducted.

Fibers from the ceiling were found, as expected, in air being circulated through the structure. But the report said, "An additional and unexpected source of asbestos was discovered—the asbestos floor tiles."

The tiles were linked to the asbestos because two kinds of fibers were found in the air, crocidolite and chrysotile. The ceiling contained only crocidolite. The chrysotile was traced to the floor.

Many of the tiles were worn and damaged and the highest concentrations of chrysotile fibers were found on the floor where activity was the greatest.

The report said that up to now, flooring had not been considered a serious source of asbestos. It said that flooring materials in 1976 represented about 15 percent of the total U.S. market for asbestos.

WASHINGTON POST FRIDAY 6/18/82

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