PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
CAP-1058

Late - STAFF

A/C Pipe Producers Association

Messrs. ~~W. T. Whitley~~, ~~W. H. Beasley~~ ~~S. G. Leyshock~~, ~~L. L. Taylor~~

Internal Correspondence

TO: Public Affairs Committee
International Affairs Committee

FROM: J. F. Welch, Director, Public Affairs

DATE: January 12, 1981

SUBJECT: Field Problem - Ocean County, New Jersey

ACTION REQUIRED: *Review for information*

Background

On November 26, 1980, The Ocean County Reporter, a biweekly newspaper with a circulation of approximately 83,000, ran no less than fifteen "articles" and an editorial on A/C pipe and its potential health hazard. Some of the titles follow:

Front page center:	Asbestos water pipes may be deathly time bomb
Front page:	Two-thirds of water in U.S. may be affected
Front page lower:	No danger from pipelines of asbestos, say experts
Page 8A:	One asbestos count here among U.S. worst
Page 9A:	Not all lines are asbestos
Page 10A:	Asbestos contamination travels throughout body
Page 13A:	Pipe manufacturers cite risks

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Additional articles (type and number unknown) were published on December 10, 1980 and six more (similar to those above) were released on December 13, 1980: (Asbestos-water concern mounts, Asbestos water pipe problem a U. S. concern, What to do? Asbestos filters or replace pipe).

It is possible, indeed likely, that others have appeared but no yet received by AACPP.

This matter was brought to AACPP's attention on December 12, 1980 by Johns-Manville Washington Affairs Office. On December 16, 1980, Certain-teed also advised Staff and quickly forwarded the November 26, 1980 edition to Lewis and Gilman (L&G).

After reviewing the articles, L&G made these observations:

(1) The sheer number of articles on A/C pipe (compared to other news articles in the issue) indicated that the Reporter was patently amateurish or in journalistic parlance, a "rag".

(2) Under the guise of investigative journalism, the Reporter appeared to be hell-bent on stirring up a controversy in the area.

(3) Since the articles had been printed already, there was little expectation of obtaining retraction or clarification.

Current Status

L&G recommended that a letter to the editor be prepared and sent to the Reporter as soon as possible. This was done by December 23, 1980. It is not known at this time if the letter was printed.

AACPP Action Planned

1. L&G to follow up on whether letter was printed; recommend additional action, if appropriate.

2. Staff to contact New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to assess impact of articles on state regulators or legislators.

3. Staff follow up with member companies to assess impact on water utilities in area.

JFW/ajb

cc: A. Kahn, Esq.
N. Rahn, Esq.
N. Battle (L&G)

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