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致南亚三部 王经理：

Attached is the article of the recent proposal by EPA to ban Asbestos use in USA. Right now manufactures, contractors & users have 90 day to responce to EPA their comments. EPA will then gather those comments make change or new proposal if needed then send to congress & senate for vote. But due to the publicity by News paper, television. it will force a lot of contractor to back-off using A/c pipe, this is already happening in California. Look like JM A/c only have about 6 month to one year left. the phasing out of A/c will be caused by public opinion & publicity it received, not by goverment banning the use of A/c pipe.

此上 敬礼

2/12/86

EPA Will Propose Ban on Asbestos Use In Some Products

By Robert E. Taylor
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

WASHINGTON – The Environmental Protection Agency today plans to propose phasing out the use of asbestos in several products, almost a year after the agency reversed itself and shelved a similar move.

The proposal calls for an immediate ban on the cancer-causing substance in clothing, roofing felt, flooring felt, felt-backed vinyl sheet flooring, vinyl asbestos floor tile, cement pipe and fittings, according to one agency official. Another official said the proposal calls for considering restrictions on other uses in five to 10 years.

In another controversial policy reversal, the agency scrapped a proposal to ban the fruit ripener daminozide. Instead, it called for modest restrictions on its use and further studies on exposure and toxicity. The agency acceded to its Science Advisory Board's conclusion that studies linking the chemical to cancer are scientifically unreliable.

Daminozide, marketed under the trade name Alar, is used on 38% of all apples produced in the U.S. as well as on other foods such as grapes, tomatoes and peanuts. Its sole producer is Uniroyal Inc.'s Uniroyal Chemical Co. subsidiary.

A Uniroyal Chemical spokesman said the company was "pleased" with the EPA's decision, adding, "We continue to believe firmly in the safety of our product."

Top agency officials said they hope the long-awaited move against asbestos, one of the most potent and clearly proven causes of cancer, will help the agency regain some public confidence. But its critics complain that the delay already has been intolerably long and that they may seek a plan that is stronger or would phase out the substance's use more quickly.

The EPA in 1979 began considering the phasing out of asbestos use. In mid-1984, EPA officials decided to propose banning certain products—including most of those being reproposed today—and phasing out asbestos mining and imports. But Reagan administration budget office officials, who review regulatory proposals, opposed the rule and urged the EPA to let other agencies consider action on asbestos.

Last Feb. 1, the EPA's deputy administrator, James Barnes, announced that federal law requires the EPA to refer questions about asbestos regulation to two other federal agencies with related authority. But after this sparked an angry protest, the agency quickly reversed that legal opinion and began reviewing a plan to phase out the substance.

On daminozide, the EPA obtained Uniroyal's consent to put a label on the product restricting its application rate in most instances to three pounds per acre from the current four, and lowering the allowable residue on food products to 20 parts per million from the current 30.

The company also agreed to caution against daminozide's use on apples for applesauce. And baby-food manufacturers have agreed to limit the use of products treated with the chemical. EPA officials said these changes and a correction of previous overestimates of exposure will reduce estimated human exposure by 85%.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, charged the EPA with "shirking its responsibility to provide a safe food supply." Lawrie Mott, a scientist with the group, advocated a ban of the chemical, which is absorbed by plants and can't be removed by washing or peeling. She called the caution against processors' use of treated fruit "unenforceable," and said the application curbs won't reduce its use much.

EPA officials promised to consider the need for further curbs on daminozide as soon as Uniroyal completes studies of cancer risks from it and a byproduct known as UMDH. Uniroyal also will study the chemical's residues in raw and processed food.

13387

EXHIBIT 31
Deponent J. Reichert
Date 9/14/11 Rptr. DW
WWW.DEPOBOOK.COM

Copy to W. Wong

RECEIVED JAN 28 1986

7/2. The Gazette - Montreal

January 23, 1986

Paul 4/28/88

Asbestos ban sought in U.S.

Gazette News Services

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will propose a total ban on the import of Canadian asbestos today, agency officials said yesterday.

The ban is part of a package of proposed measures aimed at banishing the mining and use of asbestos — which has been linked to lung cancer and respiratory illnesses — in the U.S. over a 10-year period.

EPA head Lee M. Thomas will disclose detailed proposals at a scheduled 10 a.m. news conference today.

All asbestos imported to the U.S. — worth $55 million U.S. in 1985 — now comes from Quebec, the U.S. officials acknowledged, though they did not entertain questions on the economic impact on the province.

News of the proposed ban surprised Ronald Poupart, an aide to Premier Robert Bourassa. Bourassa, en route to Montreal last night, was not available for comment.

Canadian Embassy officials in Washington also seemed surprised by the move.

Paul Lafleur, trade counsellor for metals and minerals, said the U.S. "has been inching that way," but added he had not known the action was imminent.

Lafleur would not or could not give even the roughest estimate of how many of Quebec's 3,000 to 3,500 asbestos jobs will be lost if Washington implements the ban.

The proposals will have to go through a public review that could take up to two years to complete.

News of the EPA's proposed ban came as no surprise to Pierre Coulombe, an adviser to federal Mines Minister Bob Layton.

If the U.S. imposes a total ban on asbestos products, "it could have a bad influence" on other countries which might follow suit, Coulombe said.

This, Coulombe said, would destroy Canada's efforts to convince the world that asbestos can be used safely as long as there is no more than one asbestos fibre per cubic centimetre of air.

Canada is the world's largest asbestos exporter. It sold 95 per cent of its total asbestos fibre production, worth $380 million (U.S.) in 1984, to countries other than the U.S.

Canada agrees with a ban on the use of asbestos in textiles, Coulombe said, but not in brakes, cement pipes or insulation boards.

Special, Gazette, CP

13388

Proposed U.S. asbestos ban raises ire of Quebec, Ottawa

BY GRAHAM FRASER
The Globe and Mail

QUEBEC

Quebec will mount a vigorous lobbying campaign on behalf of the asbestos industry, Raymond Savoie, Quebec's minister responsible for mines, said yesterday.

Reacting to a recommendation yesterday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the importing of Canadian asbestos be banned as part of a 10-year plan to eliminate the mining and use of asbestos, Mr. Savoie said: "We have to contradict the decision.

"We'll stand up and tell the EPA they're misinformed. We have to react; we have to react strongly. We have to say no."

In Ottawa, Mines Minister Robert Layton promised that his department will devote all its resources to lobbying against the import ban. He plans to meet industry, union and municipal officials today to co-ordinate Canada's response.

"We are absolutely convinced that asbestos can be used safely," Mr. Layton told reporters. "This is what gives me the conviction that if we get an opportunity to present our arguments we can win the case for asbestos."

Mr. Savoie said that since Quebec has introduced new health and safety regulations, the dangers involved in working with asbestos have been eliminated.

He pointed to three studies, including the report of Ontario's Royal Commission on Asbestos, published in 1984, to show that asbestos can be used safely in a controlled environment.

The Ontario royal commission, headed by Stefan Dupré, was established in 1980 after the discovery that workers at the Johns-Manville Canada Inc. plant in Scarborough were dying of asbestosis.

With a death toll of 68 workers, that single plant, in the words of the report, "occasioned more deaths from industrial disease than the entire Ontario mining industry."

The report concluded that asbestos fibres are not hazardous in food, drinking water and other beverages, and recommended that the ban on asbestos filters in the production of beer, wine and liquor be lifted.

However, the report made a clear distinction between crocidolite, or amosite asbestos, which it said should be "prohibited indefinitely," and chrysotile asbestos.

An aide to Mr. Savoie said that only chrysotile asbestos is mined in Quebec.

The report said that exposure to chrysotile asbestos in mining, milling and manufacturing operations falls "well within the bounds of a socially acceptable industrial risk." But textile manufacturing with chrysotile asbestos "cannot be condoned" and "should be banned" until it could be guaranteed that the risk was no greater than in general chrysotile manufacturing.

Quebec extracts 660,000 tons of asbestos annually, and exports between 15 and 20 per cent of its production — or about $50-million worth — to the United States. Some 2,000 people are employed in the industry.

Mr. Savoie said the problem is not merely the loss of 15 per cent of Quebec's market. "That's not the problem. Rather, it is that this is another decision unfavorable to asbestos."

He said he will be working closely with Mr. Layton to co-ordinate a lobbying strategy, and Quebec will attend the International Labor Organization conference on asbestos in Geneva in June. If that conference takes a negative decision on the use of asbestos, "we're in trouble."

The Quebec director of the United Steelworkers of America said yesterday that 3,000 workers in Quebec will lose their jobs if the U.S. Government accepts the EPA recommendation and excludes Canadian asbestos.

"If they ban asbestos, it would be terrible for the workers in Quebec," Clement Godbout said. "There are 3,000 jobs at stake in the asbestos industry, and they're all in Quebec."

Several thousand asbestos workers in the region have already lost their jobs over the past decade, especially since the mineral was linked to lung cancer. In Washington, Canadian Embassy official Paul Lafleur called the EPA decision disappointing, and repeated the Government's view that asbestos is not a health hazard if it is properly used.

He said the industry, backed by the Government, will use the next year — estimated by the EPA as the time before the proposal takes effect — to make presentations in the United States opposing the ban.

13389

HAR 00017219

Asbestos ban draws local skepticism

By BARBARA SERRANO
The Stockton Record

A move by the Environmental Protection Agency to phase out nearly all asbestos products in the next 10 years is noble but cannot be easily accomplished in Stockton, local business leaders and public officials said Thursday.

Stockton has one of the last remaining plants that produces asbestos cement pipes and fittings, and school officials are still in the process of removing the substance from classrooms and administration buildings.

The JM Manufacturing plant in Stockton expressed concern for employees but was not alarmed by the threat of discontinuing asbestos in pipe production.

"They've been talking about banning it for a long time," said JM spokesman Rex Sides.

The production of asbestos-lined pipes already has become secondary to that of plastic pipes at the plant. Asbestos-lined pipes are primarily sold to contractors and municipalities for water mains.

Sides said owners bought the plant in January 1983 when the Johns-Mansville Corp. filed for bankruptcy because of suits from former employees who said exposure to asbestos had caused lung cancer.

Jerry Brown, owner of Jerry Brown Co., a contracting firm that specializes in the removal of asbestos, said it "would take at least 20 contractors and 100 years to remove it all" from Stockton.

Brown said he believes the latest EPA crackdown on asbestos will eventually force government officials to remove the substance from all public buildings.

"City and county buildings have some real problems with asbestos," he said.

William Russell, chief of maintenance and operations for Stockton Unified School District, hailed the EPA proposal, saying "they should have done it back in 1936" when asbestos was first introduced.

SUSD expects to have all hazardous forms of fibrous asbestos in classroom and hallway ceilings removed by the end of March. The next step, said Russell, will involve replacing asbestos-lined boiler pipelines and boilers.

"The only problem is that it takes a lot of money," he said. "But based on what we're doing, the schools are going to be the safest place to be."

Tracy banned the future use of asbestos-lined pipes for water mains last summer when a resident raised concerns about safety.

Tom Dosh, municipal utilities director for Stockton, said no such discussion has been prompted here.

"We still put in asbestos pipes. It's a standard throughout the city," said Dosh.

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HAR 00017221

THE PROVINCE

Quebec to fight 'catastrophic' U.S. asbestos ban

By JENNIFER ROBINSON and MARIAN SCOTT of The Gazette

QUEBEC — The Quebec government will fight a proposed U.S. ban on Canadian asbestos to try to head off what could be the killing blow to the troubled industry, Mines Minister Raymond Savoie said yesterday.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called yesterday for annual 10-per-cent cuts in asbestos imports from Canada for 10 years until they are eliminated.

Canada is the sole foreign supplier of asbestos to the U.S.

Savoie said he wants to organize a lobby with federal Mines Minister Robert Layton, unions and asbestos companies to fight the EPA plan.

He plans to meet with unions and companies next week in Thetford Mines to discuss the problem.

Savoie said the EPA announcement came as a surprise "kick in the pants."

"It would eliminate the industry," said Roch Fréchette, mayor of the town of Asbestos and chairman of a committee to promote the industry.

"It's a catastrophic decision for the whole asbestos region."

"We're going to mount a very strong lobby and fight it like crazy," said Peter Kyle, president of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association.

"Their approach is unrealistic and uncalled-for."

The federal mines minister is planning to meet industry representatives in Montreal today to discuss ways to combat the U.S. proposal.

"We are absolutely convinced that asbestos can be used safely," Layton told reporters in Ottawa. "This is what gives me the conviction that if we get an opportunity to present our arguments, we can win the case for asbestos."

Lee Thomas, head of the EPA, told a Washington news conference he is convinced there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos, which has long been linked to lung cancer and other respiratory ailments.

Savoie said the "EPA was wrong" — asbestos can be used safely if proper standards are used. He said restricted exposure to small quantities of airborne asbestos fibres has been found in independent research to pose little danger.

Thomas told reporters it probably will take a year before the proposal becomes law because there is a lengthy review process.

The EPA has proposed the ban as part of a package of measures to eliminate asbestos-related health risks, including respiratory disease and cancer.

But while Washington is trying to safeguard health, Quebec and Ottawa will be fighting to keep the industry alive and to save an estimated 2,000 to 3,500 industry related jobs. Most of those jobs are in the Thetford Mines area, already hard hit by drastic drops in demand for asbestos fibre because of the health hazards linked to it.

Savoie said he was afraid the EPA ban, if it comes into effect, will give asbestos a reputation worse than it already has, spreading to other countries.

"The EPA decision, if it spreads, could kill the industry," he said.

Savoie said Quebec will "be in big trouble" if a United Nations labor organization based in Geneva also decides in June in favor of banning asbestos in the workplace.

The International Labor Office, the administrative body of the 145-member-country International Labor Organization (ILO), aims to promote social justice, employment and improve labor conditions and living standards.

Savoie said Quebec will attend the meeting to argue against banning asbestos.

Quebec producers sell 600,000 tons of raw asbestos fibre a year. About 1% per cent of that, worth about $56 million, is sold to the U.S.

Quebec produces about 85 per cent of Canada's asbestos. Most sales are to developing countries.

Few Quebec industries manufacture goods from asbestos fibre. The Parti Québécois government, which nationalized parts of the industry, had plans to create secondary industry to produce asbestos tiles and other building materials.

Those plans did not materialize.