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Lung Safety

Asbestos is tricky stuff. More than a year ago, *The New Yorker* published a near book-length piece on the long-range effects of asbestos on the health of workers who were forced to inhale the odd, crystalline particles it sheds.

The author found that even a trifling exposure could, years later, result in a particularly vicious form of lung cancer. He also noted that the lobbying efforts of this important industry were almost certain to keep any protective legislation, either for the workers themselves or for an equally vulnerable public, off the books for some time to come.

Now John Lindsay has appointed two officials whose job will be to enforce New York City regulations concerning the containment of asbestos dust, particularly where it is sprayed as insulation in the construction of new buildings. The new regulations, it is worth noting, are the first of their kind in the nation—how many deaths, how many lethal exposures, later? And how many yet to come?