PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT CT-13

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Asbestos Pipe Use Backed

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NEW YORK—Eight Metro councilmen recommended yesterday that waterworks director Robert L. Lawrence allow manufacturers of asbestos-cement pipe to bid on Metro pipe purchases.

The councilmen urged that the bans against the firms be dropped after a tour of the Newark, N.J., plant of Johns-Mansville Corp., a manufacturer of the asbestos-cement product.

"IT'S A SHAME that a product this good has been kept out of the bidding," said Councilman Frank Griffin. "I see no reason why these manufacturers cannot be given the opportunity to bid for our business."

James LaPenna, chairman of the council purchasing committee, said the tour of the Johns-Mansville facility produced "overwhelming evidence that asbestos-cement pipe is a quality product and widely used throughout the world."

Joining Griffin and LaPenna in the recommendation were Councilmen Martin Garrett, John Fox, Mansfield Douglas, John Driver, Earl Shacklett and Robert McBride.

A NINTH councilman making the trip, Tom Sharp, said he would make no recommendation concerning the product pending further investigation. Sharp said he wanted to learn as much about the cast iron water pipe now being used by Metro as he learned about the asbestos-cement product during the two-day visit here.

The councilmen toured the facility at the invitation of Johns-Manville officials at no expense to Metro government. The firm had previously told the purchasing committee it was being excluded from bidding because of Lawrence's opposition to the use of asbestos-cement pipe.

The purchasing committee has been investigating Metro's pipe purchasing practices

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since a probe by THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN disclosed that a single cast iron manufacturer has gotten all Metro water pipe business in the last four years.

THE FIRM, JAMES B. Clow & Son, was successful low bidder on all pipe contracts, while its three major competitors were equally successful in the state's other major cities.

Griffin and LaPenna, after viewing quality and durability tests of the asbestos-cement pipe, said it is "apparent" Metro has been "victimized by a lack of true competition among cast iron pipe companies."

Comparing list prices of asbestos-cement and cast iron pipes, LaPenna estimated Metro can save $525,000 over the next 18 months by allowing asbestos-cement manufacturers to bid against cast iron companies.

"I am not saying we should switch entirely to asbestos-cement or that one product is superior," he said. "It is my personal feeling the two products are comparable and all vendors should be allowed to bid."

LAPENNA SAID councilmen who toured the plant will present their findings to the full purchasing committee later this month. The committee will make recommendations to the council.

Comments from other councilmen concerning asbestos-cement pipe were:

John Fox: "I think these firms have a good product and should be allowed to bid. If installed to specifications, the nature of the terrain will not matter."

Martin Garrett: "Our biggest problem is selling it to Mr. Lawrence. I personally think we should let the contractors buy the pipe and that both cast iron and asbestos-cement companies be allowed to try for the business.

John Driver: "I was amazed at the strength and quality of this asbestos-cement material, especially after what we had heard locally. I think the company should have the privilege of competitive bidding. With expenses continuing to go up, it is advantageous to us to save tax money."

Mansfield Douglas: "I was quite impressed and am convinced that the pipe is sufficient to carry water under the stress and strain anticipated in Metro's system. I see no reaon why these companies are not allowed to bid."

Robert McBride: "I feel there are places where asbestos-cement might not work in the local system. At the same time there are places where it will do the job as good as cast iron and at a much lower cost. With a water-sewer expansion program as large as ours, this is a good place for us to save a substantial amount of money."