

March 1971

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CAP-1646

Controls Suggested

**ASBESTOSIS IS STILL INDUSTRIAL PROBLEM,
BUT ENVIRONMENTAL 'CRISIS' BREWING**

(Note: Dr. Charles G. Kramer, associate to corporate medical director, Dow, gave this report on medical aspects of asbestosis—a potential area of concern—at recent meeting of MCA's Air Quality Committee, of which he is member.)

Early in this century, a scarring disease of the lungs was found in individuals exposed to asbestos-laden dust. This disease, asbestosis, is still occurring in workers involved with some of the 3,000 applications of this fibrous mineral. An industrial hygiene standard was established which, when followed, has protected workmen from developing overt asbestosis.

Recent studies indicate lung cancer occurs more often among asbestos-exposed workers than the general population. The increase is greater if the individual exposed to asbestos also is a cigarette smoker.

More recent studies show a clear correlation between asbestos exposure and cancer of the gastrointestinal tract and possibly cancer of the linings of the chest and abdominal cavities. The tie became evident slowly, because of a lapse of 20 to 30 years between the beginning of exposure and cancer development.

The old industrial hygiene standard for asbestos is no longer considered adequate, and more stringent standards are now recommended. Safety and health of workers exposed to asbestos dust can be protected by (1) switching to less hazardous materials, (2) ventilating to remove dust from the workers' breathing zone, (3) working only with wet asbestos, and (4) using personal protective equipment, which often proves inadequate unless use is stringently enforced. (Asbestos, fluorides, lead and polycyclic organic matter are under study by National Research Council for EPA's use in developing air quality criteria. Target date: late this year.)

In addition, exposed workers should receive routine medical surveillance. For those exposed to asbestos dust in the past or who may continue to be exposed, best health protection advice is: *avoid cigarettes.*

Although evidence of effects from community exposure has been exaggerated, environmental impact must always be considered.

Increasing public concern about effects of asbestos dust requires industry to be ready to cope with another environmental "crisis." Best way to avoid the problem is by carefully controlling disposal of asbestos-containing dusts and wastes.

**RESEARCHER STUDYING
POLLUTION HAZARDS
OF EMERGENCY DISCHARGES**

Potential hazards from chemical effluents discharged from stacks during emergencies are under investigation by University of Kansas professor under \$3,000 research grant from his institution. Dr. Harold F. Rosson told PILOT his computer study of theoretical emergency situations could predict likely effects of concentrated chemical effluent downwind from plant stack.

Dr. Rosson hopes to develop specific models for concentrations of various chemicals, including effect of coincident chemical reaction. Similar study in aquatic environment is under consideration. Model's usefulness, Dr. Rosson pointed out, will be in determining design and location of chemical plants.

SOME FIGURES ON COAL

National Coal Association reports \$45 million expenditure in last four years to install and operate pollution control facilities relating to acid mine drainage. MCA companies have spent another \$2 million on research and development related to acid mine drainage.

Association also reports more than 64,000 acres of coal strip mines reclaimed across country in same period.

**AREAWIDE POLLUTION CONTROL
PLAN IN TEXAS
BACKED BY EPA**

EPA's Water Quality Office has awarded Texas Water Quality Board \$220,000 grant to develop comprehensive water pollution control plan for Galveston Bay. Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority is implementing agency for three-year project. WQO says some 30 percent of municipal and industrial wastewater in Texas is concentrated in Harris, Chambers and Galveston Counties, area covered under grant. Principal cities involved are Houston, Galveston, Texas City and Baytown.

Grant is designed to seek basin-wide solutions to water resources and pollution problems, and to encourage industry, municipalities and state agencies to work together and explore advantages of joint municipal-industrial waste treatment facilities.