

Asbestos Information Association/North America

201 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017
(212) 697-5600

April 6, 1971

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AIA/NA

CC: ADMINISTRATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE, AIA/NA

TELEGRAPHING THE FEDERAL PROTECTION ADMINISTRATION

Attached is a copy of the news release issued on March 31 by the subject agency, in which as you will see, some rather unfair and extreme statements are made concerning alleged asbestos hazards.

At a meeting of the Administrative Sub-Committee, yesterday, which was attended by Chairman Harold McNabb, it was decided to take the following steps to counter this development:

1. To ask each member company to send a telegram to Mr. Ruckelshaus, protesting the news release issued by his department. Suggested copy for such a telegram is attached. The wording has been changed for each company, so as not to give the appearance of a "form letter" approach.
2. We will seek, as the AIA/NA, to obtain an appointment to see Mr. Ruckelshaus and discuss the areas of error in the afore-mentioned news release and offer to assist his department in setting the facts straight. Hopefully, our delegation will include, in addition to Harold McNabb and myself, a top medical expert and someone like Fred Pundsack who has a great deal of background on asbestos research.

If you agree with this approach, I would appreciate it if you would send a telegram along the lines suggested in the attached draft, to Mr. Ruckelshaus as soon as possible. Please send me a blind carbon copy of the wire.

Sincerely,



William P. Raines

Secretary

Sponsored by Certain-teed Products Corp., Flintkote Co., GAF Corp., Johns-Manville Corp., National Gypsum Co., Paragon Corp., Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., and Woodward Corp., and operating from Hill and Knowlton, Inc., Public Relations Counsel

01-0218217

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20460**

MR. BLISS	(202)	632-7692
(Home)	(301)	460-9014
MR. HOLMES	(301)	443-1677
(Home)	(301)	593-6439

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 A.M. MARCH 31, 1971

HAZARDOUS-POLLUTANT LIST PROPOSED

William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, today named three hazardous air pollutants for which he will set national standards in the next few months.

The hazardous pollutants -- those to which even slight exposure may contribute to death or serious illness -- were identified in the Federal Register today as asbestos, beryllium, and mercury. They are the first to be identified under the 1970 Clean Air Amendments.

In proposing to list these three contaminants, Ruckelshaus said, "Listing these contaminants as hazardous under the 1970 Clean Air Amendments does not mean that current levels in the air are dangerous. It means that even slight exposure to asbestos, mercury, and beryllium may threaten human health, and we must carefully control any release of these substances to the

(4/15/71)

2.

environment."

Under the Clean Air Amendments, listing a substance as a hazardous air pollutant calls for EPA to propose National emission standards for new and existing sources of the hazardous pollutants. After hearings the standards will be promulgated. Standards are to be set within one year of publication of the list.

Ruckelshaus stated that other pollutants will be added to the list if further assessment shows that they are "hazardous" within the meaning of the Act.

#.#