



A/C Pipe
Producers Association

Board of Directors
International Affairs Committee

TO

FROM

J. F. Welch
J. F. Welch, Vice President

W. H. Kelly
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Internal Correspondence

HT
8-13 DATE

August 7, 1984

SUBJECT Public Education Program (SOP-01-04) - AACPP Trade Release

- REF: (1) JFW correspondence, same title, July 6, 1984
(2) JFW correspondence, same title, November 14, 1983
(3) JFW correspondence, same title, October 14, 1983
(4) JFW correspondence, same title, September 23, 1983
(5) JFW correspondence, same title, August 5, 1983
(6) JFW correspondence, same title, June 29, 1983
(7) JFW correspondence, same title, April 30, 1983
(8) JFW correspondence, same title, February 16, 1983

ACTION REQUIRED: Review for information

Enclosed is a news article published as a result of a trade press release made through AACPP's Public Education Program. This article appeared in the June, 1984 issue of Journal of Environmental Health. Its source, suprisingly, is A/C Advisory #12, "No Apparent Relationship Between Imbibed Asbestos and Levels in Urine." Magazines often retain press releases for use at later dates.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

JFW/ajb

Enclosure

cc: A. Kahn, Esq.

copies to: Board of Directors

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Ingested Asbestos Study Completed in Washington

Researchers at the University of Washington Department of Environmental Health have completed a 21-month study of the ratio of asbestos fibers retained or excreted by persons consuming drinking water containing high levels of asbestos. The study, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was designed to determine whether asbestos fibers were present in the urine of residents in and around Everett, Wash., where tap water contains about 200 million fibers per liter. The researchers investigated whether significant numbers of asbestos fibers penetrate the wall of the intestinal tract, whether asbestos fibers are found in other organs of the body and in body fluids, and what is the effect during long-term exposures of 20 or more years.

A small group of people in Everett, all in good health and without histories of kidney disease or occupational exposure to asbestos, consumed drinking water containing approximately 200 million fibers per liter. This group was compared to a control group of Seattle, Wash., residents where levels of chrysotile asbestos in the drinking water are 100 times less (2 million fibers per liter). Urine samples from both groups were taken over a 21 month period and asbestos fibers counted by means of a transmission electron microscope. Limits of detection ranged from 70,000 to 300,000 fibers per liter. Lengths of asbestos fibers in the drinking water ranged from 0.3 to 5.0 micrometers; fiber length in the urine samples ranged from 0.5 to 1.2 micrometers.

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According to a news release from the AC Pipe Producers Association, the investigations concluded that although the concentrations of fibers in the urine samples varied throughout the sampling period, none were consistently and significantly higher than the concentrations of fibers estimated for the control waters. There was, however, a significant difference ($p=0.05$) between the counts of fibers in the urine samples of persons who had been residents of Everett for less than three years compared to persons of more than 24 years residence.

The study revealed that the concentration of fibers in the urine samples of Everett donors combined (0.97×10^6 fibers per liter) was not significantly different than the concentration for Seattle/Bellevue control donors, even though the numbers of fibers in the drinking water of the latter were at least 100 times less.

The report says that although the data is inconclusive, the study suggests there is no relationship between high concentrations of asbestos fibers in drinking water and the numbers estimated for voided urine.