



ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CT-1512

For Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

July 6, 1989

B. J. Pigg, President

(The following statement was issued today by the Asbestos Information Association/North America (AIA/NA). AIA/NA is an incorporated, non-profit organization representing firms in the United States and Canada involved in the mining and milling of asbestos ore, the sale of asbestos fiber, and the manufacture or processing of asbestos-containing products.)

The Asbestos Information Association/North America believes that the Environmental Protection Agency misconstrued the record evidence in announcing today its final rule banning manufacture of most asbestos-containing products over the next seven years. Contrary to EPA's conclusions, AIA/NA believes the extensive record before the Agency demonstrates that currently marketed asbestos-containing products are manufactured, installed and used safely.

Current asbestos products bind the asbestos fibers in locked-in or encapsulated matrices that significantly diminish fiber release. These products are manufactured and installed under the most stringent occupational standards in the world. Current products -- including asbestos cement pipe and shingles, roof coatings, gaskets and other asbestos paper products, and brake pads and linings -- as demonstrated in the EPA proceedings, when properly handled, cause minimal exposures and can be replaced only through use of

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more expensive substitutes, which themselves may pose health and safety risks.

AIA/NA believes the Agency record does not support the three-stage ban of these products over the next seven years, as announced by the Agency. Such a ban of almost all asbestos use is contrary to the international scheme for controlled use of asbestos, as adopted by the International Labor Organization and the World Health Organization, and as followed by most nations.

EPA's rule contains prohibitions on manufacture of many asbestos-containing products. Manufacture of felt products, a/c sheet and v/a floor tile are banned in one year; original equipment brakes and non-industrial beater add and sheet gaskets in four years; and a/c pipe, a/c shingles, roof and non-roof coatings, certain paper products, and aftermarket brakes in seven years. Industrial uses of sheet and beater add gaskets, several other specialized products, and mining and milling are exempt from the rule.

AIA/NA welcomes the comments by Administrator Reilly that EPA's judgments as to U.S. manufacture should not be viewed by other nations, especially third world nations, as a signal that they should discontinue manufacture and use.



ADVISORY

JULY 6, 1989

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B. J. Pigg, President

EPA ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL RULE AFFECTING ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPE

At a press conference on July 6, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its final rule on future manufacture of asbestos-containing products. The rule prohibits manufacture or import into the United States of a/c pipe after August 26, 1996. No sales of a/c pipe by manufacturers may be made after August 25, 1997. The rule contains no prohibitions on use of pipe purchased by users before those dates and thus would allow water utilities to purchase the pipe for later installation.

In announcing the final rule, EPA Administrator William Reilly emphasized that the Agency has found no basis for terminating the use of, or removing, in-place a/c pipe, noting that the risks perceived by EPA are from inhalation during manufacture and installation and not from ingestion

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of water carried by a/c pipe. He also emphasized that EPA's judgment on a/c pipe in the United States "should not be seen as a signal to other nations, especially developing countries, that use of asbestos-containing products should be discontinued."

In discussion of the rule in the preamble, to be published in the Federal Register next week, EPA commits itself to a "technical review" of the risks and costs associated with a/c pipe and its substitutes PVC and iron ductile pipe prior to the 1996 effective date of the ban. The rule also provides that companies who wish to continue manufacture of a/c pipe after 1996 may file exemption petitions with EPA after February 26, 1996. EPA will at that time review whether the companies have made good faith attempts to develop substitutes and whether continued manufacture would not pose unreasonable risk, thus qualifying a/c pipe for an exemption from the ban.

Finally, the rule requires that a/c pipe manufactured after August 25, 1995, contain a label indicating that marketing of this pipe after August 26, 1997 is banned.

The Association remains committed to the defense and promotion of the use of asbestos cement pipe. We will be reviewing the lengthy final rule in detail over the next several weeks and considering whether we will file a petition seeking judicial review; under EPA rules, no such petitions can be filed until July 26, 1989.