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Some Recent Editorial Comments...

Asbestos Spray Curbed by State

New York yesterday put into effect the nation's first regulations to control asbestos sprayed at construction sites. It is considered a serious lung disease hazard. Air Resources Commissioner Robert N. Rickles said 20 contractors were elerted to the new regulations which require use of protective respirators and coveralls for workers and the tight enclosure of work areas. Asbestos is sprayed on construction supports to prevent weakening in case of fire. 4-14-70

The Evening Bulletin
PHILADELPHIA
Tuesday, March 24, 1970

Halt Spraying Of Asbestos, Court Is Asked

The city yesterday sought an injunction to halt asbestos spraying at the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Co. building now under construction at 15th st. and South Penn Square.

The city's Air Management Services cited the Venzie Corp., 1900 E. Mermaid lane, for alleged violations of the new Air Management Code.

Edward F. Wilson, assistant health commissioner for AMS said Venzie had not adequately controlled the spraying of asbestos insulation. He said medical evidence indicates there may be a correlation between inhalation of asbestos dust and lung cancer.

Venzie was issued a permit, said Wilson, on condition that emission of the toxic agent would be controlled. Inspectors, however, he said, found the substance on the sidewalk and streets near the construction site.

Carl F. Zucker, enforcement chief for the city law department, filed suit against Venzie seeking an injunction to halt the spraying. A hearing will be held Thursday.

CITY SWEARS IN TWO TO ACT ON ASBESTOS

Two new officials of the Environmental Protection Administration were sworn in at City Hall yesterday to enable the city to take swift action against a growing pollution danger—insulating asbestos that is sprayed in the construction of new buildings.

The officials are Robert Rickles, Commissioner of Air Resources, and Neal Fabricant, legal counsel for the Environmental Protection Administration. Both had been working in their posts and were hurriedly sworn in so the city could legally promulgate new regulations requiring the containment of asbestos dust.

The new regulations — the first of their kind in the nation, officials said—are to be delivered today to construction sites, and will become effective at 7 A.M. Monday.

They require that tarpaulins cover areas where asbestos is being sprayed on building structures, that waste asbestos be vacuumed and swept into closed containers and that the containers be buried in designated disposal areas. Asbestos dust has been linked with cancer, especially of the lungs.

There has been growing public concern over the asbestos danger. Some officials said the regulations, in addition to attacking the asbestos problem, would offer the city a point of progress on Earth Day, April 22, when nationwide anti-pollution demonstrations will be held.

NEW YORK POST, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1970 18

Ottinger: Asbestos Is Threat

Westchester Rep. Ottinger charged today that "New Yorkers are being unnecessarily exposed to thousands of tons of cancer causing asbestos dust every year."

The Democratic Senatorial aspirant said medical studies show that "as many as 50 per cent of city residents may have asbestos in their bodies."

Noting that 5000 tons of fireproofing material will be sprayed on the two large buildings in the World Trade Center, Ottinger said that 1000 tons will be asbestos "and as much as 50 per cent of that is expected to escape into the air."

He said that during the construction of a 30-story building 200 tons of asbestos are sprayed, with about half of it escaping.

He cited a study made by Dr. William Nicholson, of Mt. Sinai Environmental Laboratories, that showed a concentration of asbestos 1000 times greater than the acceptable level at a location a quarter of a mile from a recently sprayed site.

Ottinger called upon the Federal Air Pollution Control Administration to issue criteria controlling the spraying of asbestos. He said that under present plans the criteria "are not expected before 1972."

The candidate recalled that studies have shown that "persons exposed to asbestos dust have incidence of lung cancer seven times more frequently than those not exposed."

Emphasizing that he was not critical of city officials who have been working on this problem for several years, Ottinger said that "only federal regulations could provide effective standards for public health."