FILE NAME: Newspaper & Magazine Articles (NMA)

DATE: 1970 May 1

DOC#: NMA146

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: WNBC Radio News Transcript - Asbestos Use in Construction to be Controlled

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

41 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017, 687-5100

FOR JOHNS-MANVILLE

PROGRAM Newsradio 88 STATION WCBS

DATE May 1, 1970 - 2:00PM CITY New York

ASBESTOS USE IN CONSTRUCTION TO BE CONTROLLED

COMMENTATOR: Time for report on medicine. Here is Lew Adler.

LEW ADLER: New York City has become the first place in the country to take official action against the spraying of asbestos particles during the construction of buildings in densely populated urban areas. This move has been taken by administrative fiat rather than through the legislative process. Until it appears likely to face opposition, possibly in the courts from building contractors and owners alike. But the New York action by the Environmental Resources Administration is seen by anti-pollution advocates and many medical experts as being a timely and courageous step in facing the problem squarely and the problem is this: asbestos particles, especially in the form used in asbestos sprays during construction, have reportedly been found in the lungs of at least a quarter of the adults who have died and been autopsied in urban areas of the United States and other highly industrialized nations. The figure is contained in a Medical World News editorial written by the magazine's editor, Mr. Morris Fischbein. The editorial notes that some medical scientists are predicting that the incidence of asbestos induced lung cancer will soon exceed that associated with cigaret smoking and cancer isn't the only disease that the scientists say asbestos particles can generate, pathologists say the particles can produce a variety of serious manifestations when inhaled. Studies have recently shown that the mortality rate of workmen regularly exposed to asbestos under industrial conditions is sharply higher than that for the working population as a whole. Asbestosis, a condition similar to silicosis of the lungs, can develop among the general public too who constantly come into contact with asbestos particles in dust from construction sites, floor tiling products, even from the brake linings of automobiles. Asbestosis creates

a slow, degenerative reaction in the lungs, a condition leading to what the medical men call fibrosis which is the replacement of healthy tissue with scar tissue. Enough of that and the lungs simply stop doing their job.

Asbestos is used in insulating materials, it's fundamental in fireproofing and there's no adequate substitute for it, not yet, or at least there isn't any that has been accepted either by building contractors or by doctors who are concerned lest asbestos be replaced by something equally harmful. The New York experiment at banning the asbestos spraying is being watched very carefully by concerned experts around the world.