

**Social Services**

Scott M. Matheson, Governor, State of Utah
Anthony W. Mitchell, Ph.D., Executive Director

April 5, 1979
533-4207

Mr. J. L. Wharton
Johns-Manville Sales Corporation
Pipe Division
525 East Third South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Dear Mr. Wharton:

We appreciate your presentation on asbestos cement (A.C.) pipe this morning. Per your request, this letter is being written to let you know of our feelings concerning A.C. pipe.

While there have been various allegations relative to asbestos in drinking water which may have originated from A.C. pipe, we are also aware of many studies by such agencies as American Water Works Association, National Academy of Science, etc., none of which have concluded that the use of A.C. pipe poses a threat to the health of water users. Furthermore, we feel that there is a significantly larger health risk when asbestos fibers are chronically inhaled into the respiratory system than fibers passing through the digestive system.

In summary, we do not at this point feel that there is a health risk associated with the use of A.C. pipe in public water systems which is greater than is experienced with the use of other types of commonly accepted pipe. When we learn of any information to the contrary, we will let you know.

Sincerely,

Gayle J. Smith, P. E., Director
Bureau of Public Water Supplies

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Division of Health
Environmental Health Services Branch
James D. Clise
Deputy Director of Health

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