

Local Men File $1 Million Suit

Claiming that their asbestos-related jobs harmed their health, four Denison men and an Arkansas resident have filed $1 million lawsuits in federal court.

The Denison men are Jimmy D Humphries, John F. Englutt Jr., James Ayres and Joe Gordon Beard. The Arkansas man is James Wilford Lockhart.

Humphries is employed by the Johns-Manville plant in Denison and the others are former employees there.

Lockhart's suit lists 21 companies as defendants, including Johns-Manville Sales Corp, which owns the Denison plant. All of the companies supply or produce asbestos matrials.

Ayres, Beard and Englutt are also suing the Johns-Manville Sales Corp and 10 other companies. However, Humphries suit does not include the corporation.

All five men claim to suffer from asbestosis, a lung disease caused by inhaling asbestos fibers.

Representing the men will be Sherman attorney, Larry Cain. According to Cain, the men probably came to him as a result of two other asbestos-related suits he helped file two years ago. In both, the relatives of deceased asbestos workers claim the fireproof material caused cancers which killed the men. Those suits are still pending court trials under Judge Wayne Justice.

Cain said the cases came to him individually during the past year and were filed at about the same time as a matter of convenience.

All of the new suits except Englutt's will be heard by Judge Justice. The Englutt suit has been assigned to Judge William Steger of Tyler.

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Five $1 million lawsuits claim harm from asbestos

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The Denison men are James Ayres, Joe Gordon Beard, John F. Englutt Jr. and Jimmy D. Humphries. Humphries is employed by the Johns-Manville plant in Denison and the others are former employees there.

The Arkansas man, James Wilford Lockhart, worked as an insulator on jobs throughout Texas, according to his petition.

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Humphries' suit does not include Johns-Manville Sales Corp.

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