



A/C Pipe
Producers Association

Internal Correspondence

TO Public Affairs Committee
International Affairs Committee

October 23, 1981

DATE

FROM *J. F. Welch*
J. F. Welch, Director, Public Affairs

SUBJECT: World Water Magazine - Article on A/C Pipe

ACTION REQUIRED: Review for action

Background

In mid-1981, AACPP's public relations counsel (Lewis & Gilman) was advised that World Water magazine would run an article on the controversy surrounding the use of A/C pipe for the conveyance of potable water. At Staff's request, a number of information materials, including the press kit and related medical backgrounders, were forwarded to the magazine's editors. In addition, similar backgrounding efforts were undertaken by the Asbestos International Association.

In August, 1981, Lewis & Gilman followed up with the editors and were advised that the article would not feature the A/C pipe and health issue but would focus on "pipes in the third world." The impression conveyed to or drawn by Lewis & Gilman was that the article would discuss the technical and economic advantages/disadvantages of various pipe materials.

Current Status

Enclosed is the article "Disputed Cancer Threat - A Dilemma for Pipe Designers," as published in the October, 1981 issue of World Water. On one hand the article is favorable, that is, it concludes:

Outside America, and particularly in third world countries, where every extra kilometre of pipe obtained for the same investment means the saving of lives from waterborne disease, much stronger evidence of risk would seem to be needed before asbestos-cement pipe should be rejected on the grounds of cancer risk.

On the other hand, the article makes some valid but very unsettling statements about the "dilemma" facing engineers:

Nevertheless, no engineer can relish lives and deaths as balancing parameters in his design equation, and the thought of building cancer into a pipe network, whatever the compensating reduction of waterborne disease is at best uncomfortable and at worse horrific.

Moreover, the article extensively quotes Jim Millette (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Health Effects Research Laboratory), elevates him to the status of "epidemiologist," and gives some credence to using the water quality criteria for asbestos (issued under the Clean Water Act) as a maximum contaminant level for asbestos in drinking water.

Distribution of World Water is as follows:

World-wide - 12,500

U.S. - 1,635

Canada - 766

Please advise Staff by November 25, 1981 whether you believe a response to the article is in order. Staff plans to forward a copy of this article to the Office of Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Research and Development to emphasize (a) how Millette's Netherlands presentation continues to have adverse impact on the A/C pipe industry and (b) how the water quality criteria for asbestos in ambient water are being misinterpreted.

JFW/ajb

Enclosure

cc: A. Kahn, Esq.
N. Rahn, Esq.
N. Battle
W. E. Smith
B. Commins
Special Counsel (7)
Asbestos International Association
Asbestos Information Association/NA

copies to: Public Affairs Committee

H. Olson
I. Adams
W. Perrell
J. Woods
J. Baker
T. Dougherty
D. Stinson
W. McCallie
B. Collier

International Affairs Committee

R. Dorner
B. Giboin
C. Walters
E. van der Rest
R. Hobbs
A. Saoulis
R. Jalan
V. Pattabhi
H. Hudson
C. Barton
S. Al-Tarkait

CAPCO JEN 0033337