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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH
222 EAST CENTRAL PARKWAY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

Water Supply Studies

REFER TO

December 7, 1967

Johns-Manville Company
22 East 40th Street
New York, New York 10016

Gentlemen:

We have had an inquiry from a local health officer about the carcinogenic effect of asbestos from A-C pipe in drinking water.

We will decide about the effects of ingested asbestos, but would like to know if you have any data about the amount of asbestos that might occur in drinking water. How much is introduced during pipe repairs and tapping? Does solution of the calcium out of the cement into the water release asbestos fiber? Do you know anything about a report "-that near Memphis, Tennessee, there was a period in one locality where the pH in the water was 10 or 11 and this resulted in a solution in the cement component of the pipes to such an extent that the water became milky-" that we have been asked about.

I will appreciate your comments on this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Leland J. McCabe
Chief, Disease Studies
Water Supply and Sea Resources
Program

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