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Asbestos in Drinking Water

Special to The New York Times

perks concluded last week. "The particles we have to deal with range from two microns [which is a millionth of a meter] to two millionths of a meter."

While asbestos has been registered as an electronic "shadow" of objects too small to be seen by plain magnification, it has been identified as a cause of cancer through inhalation.

when swallowed. Rather than declaring the Duluth water unsafe for general consumption, the E.P.A. suggested that pending clarification of the problem, the water not be given to infants and children who had not already had years of exposure.

An extensive series of analyses of human tissue samples is being conducted to elucidate asbestos - ingestion effects, connection with a Federal suit in Duluth to stop the Reserve Mining Company from putting iron ore into the lake 67,000 tons a day. He did the principal study of crushed rock from which iron has been extracted.

Dr. Selikoff has been the principal medical consultant to the Environmental Quality and the Food and Drug Administration and has been directing the current tissue studies. Officials hope that some conclusions from these will be available for the rest of the country.

Millions of samples of airborne asbestos hazards over the land and water from all parts of the country.

Obstacles Noted

However, at the panel's bi-weekly meeting here Tuesday, discussions produced two formidable obstacles to setting up such a survey.

"We don't know what size