

With this position in mind, I would now like to discuss the asbestos regulations proposed for the State of Illinois. To begin with, I would like to commend the Illinois Pollution Control Board for its efforts to ensure a safe environment for the State and all its citizens. Your credentials as a progressive yet fair control board are well known and respected in environmental circles throughout the nation.

While the asbestos industry as represented by the Asbestos Information Association is of the position that there is presently no hazard to the general public from the minute amounts of asbestos existing in the community air, we nevertheless are in favor of regulations designed to accomplish one or more of the following three objectives:

One, to ensure the health and safety of those occupationally exposed to asbestos fiber.

Two, to prevent possibly hazardous amounts of asbestos fiber from escaping into the ambient air, and

Three, to eliminate, where possible, the nuisance of even small amounts of asbestos fiber from escaping into the ambient air.

While this third point is not directly related to health because of the small amounts of fiber involved, we wholeheartedly support the position that the environment should be as clean as possible.

For these reasons, we support most of the items in the proposed regulations. However, we do have several specific comments and