FILE NAME: Johns-Manville (JMA)

DATE: 1969

DOC#: JMA370

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo & Press Release - Stokinger on Asbestos Cement Pipe Hazard Part 1 of 2

GLS 3630
Return to Sims

CONFIDENTIAL

Division Headquarters
February 13, 1969

File w/c Studies

D. L. Rimmon

cc:
H. Ball - 11th Floor
J. Solon - 12th Floor
H. Jackson - 2nd Floor
F. L. Pundsack - Finderne
M. Harris - DHQ
S. J. McDuff - DHQ
P. E. Dix - DHQ
Dr. S. Speil - Research
E. Fanner - Research
J. H. Swensen - Finderne
E. H. Pronske - DHQ
O. A. Wirsig - 270 Madison
File
Chrono

Dr. Herbert E. Stokinger's Presentation
ASCE Meeting, New Orleans, 2/6/69

Attached you will find a resume of the paper by Dr. Stokinger presented at the ASCE Meeting in New Orleans. Alan Wirsig attended this convention and was present to hear the paper referenced above. Alan contacted me by telephone on Friday, February 7th, and related what occurred during Dr. Stokinger's presentation. I then contacted Bill Raines and Matt Swetonic in our Public Relations Department and we attempted to record Alan Wirsig's recollection of the presentation by Dr. Stokinger. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in this recording and I then contacted Alan Wirsig and asked him to write up his recollection of what took place. The attached comments by Alan were written Friday afternoon on the return flight to New York from New Orleans and represents his recollections while the facts were relatively fresh in his mind.

I have not attempted to edit or inject my own opinions into the comments made by Alan Wirsig and would remind everyone that Alan's comments were written, without excessive detail, due to his sense of urgency.

J. F. Baker

JFB:dh

Att.

GLS 2/27

MED/Sc. STOKINGER Master Cfy

April 14, 1969

F. J. Solon, Jr.

RE: DR. STOKINGER/ASCE/"CIVIL ENGINEERING"

In connection with your meeting tomorrow night, here is a brief description of several attachments that document this topic:

A) New Release issued in February by the American Society of Civil Engineers reporting on a talk given by Dr. Stokinger at a meeting in New Orleans. This is the meeting that Al Wirsig attended. Al is quite certain that Dr. Stokinger never said anything like the sentence that is underlined on the bottom of the first page, and which implicates asbestos-cement pipe with "asbestos induced tumors in women."

B) A correction "Note to the Editor" distributed by the ASCE in March after my tape recorded conversation with the man who allegedly wrote the original news release (Lester M. Kalshman, Regional Director, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, Boston) brought about a denial that he wrote the release and a refusal to affirm that Dr. Stokinger had made the controversial statement at all.

Subsequently, the ASCE telephoned Dr. Stokinger and, after he first agreed with the original news release ("A") and then, in the next breath, he also agreed with the correction ("B") they became convinced that the retraction was in order.

C) Copy of the reference to Dr. Stokinger that appeared in the March issue of CIVIL ENGINEERING, published by ASCE. The editor of the magazine relied upon the news release from the Society and did not realize that it had not been properly verified.

D) Advance proof of the correction note that will run in the April issue of CIVIL ENGINEERING. As you know, this was given to us to help counter the damaging effect of the article in the March issue.

MORE.....

As you are also aware, the Pipe Division widely circulated to its salesmen both the "note to the editor" retracting part of the February news release from the ASCE and the advance proof of the correction notice for the April issue of CIVIL ENGINEERING.

W. P. Raines

wpr/eb
att.

An evaluation of toxic potential

No need to worry about pesticides accumulating in the hum they don't. But beware of some new substances that are ve This was the message brought to an SED session by Dr. He Stokinger, toxicologist from the National Center for Urban dustrial Health, Cincinnati.

He gave evidence to show that trace levels of DDT, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and organic phosphates present in our environment and food are destroyed by enzymes produced by the liver and do not concentrate in the body. In addition, present limitations on arsenic in food and water are extremely conservative and can safely be exceeded at least by a factor of ten.

Stokinger named beryllium as one of the new and highly toxic substances now present in our environment. At low concentrations it causes berylosis, a fatal disease with no known cure. The use of beryllium in rocket fuel, he suggested, presents a potential hazard. Destruction of a rocket in the earth's atmosphere could cause widespread dispersal of toxic beryllium.

A rapidly increasing source of toxicity is asbestos, which can enter the body by respiration or ingestion. The appearance of asbesto-induced tumors in women, Stokinger said, has implicated asbestos-cement water pipe as the source of asbestos.



One of three 48-ft-diameter, horseshoe-shaped diversion tunnels used at Portage Mountain Project. The tunnels were designed to handle a flow of 270,000 cfs, but successfully passed an instantaneous peak of 314,000 cfs.

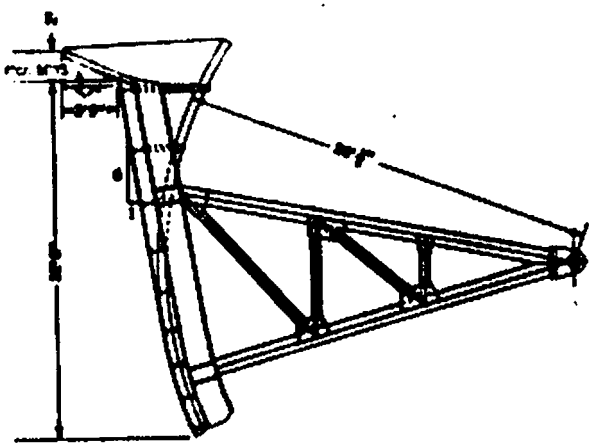


FIG. 2. Elevation of the buoyant spillway gate at McCloud Dam. Hydrostatic forces acting on battered portion of modified radial gate causes moment around trunnion, giving uplift.

news

CONTACT H

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

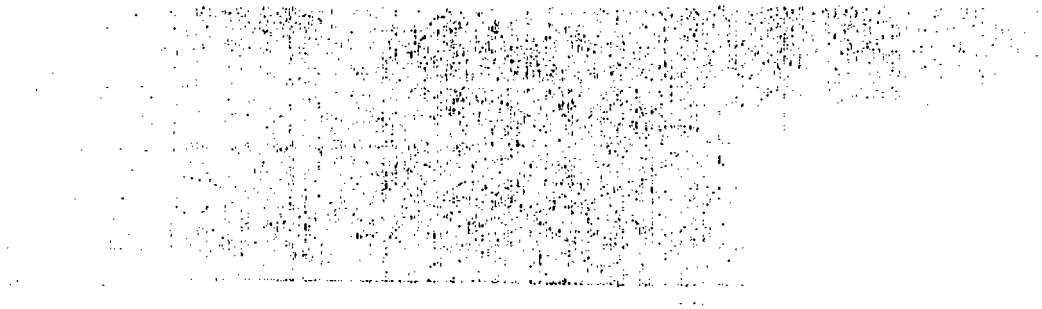
POISONING OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT
SUBJECT OF TALK HERE

Dr. Herbert E. Stokinger , Toxicologist from National Center for Urban and Industrial Health, Cincinatti, refused claims for concern on accumulation of pesticides in the human body in a paper presented before the American Society of Civil Engineers Meeting in New Orleans on February 6.

Dr. Stokinger presented evidence that the trace levels of DDT, chlorinated hydrocarbons and organic phosphates present in our environment and food are destroyed by enzymes produces by the liver and do not concentrate in the body as previously feared. He also pointed out that present limits of Arsenic in food and water are extremely conservative and can safely be exceeded at least by a factor of ten.

While pointing out that many of the substances that were of concern as to toxicity in trace levels have proved to be essential to life there are new substances appearing in our environment which have been found to be very toxic. An example is beryllium. At low concentrations it causes berylosis, a fatal disease with no known cure. Although industrial hygene measures control its hazard in beryllium processing a new hazard is present due to its use in rocket fuel. Destruction of a rocket in the earth's atmosphere could cause widespread dispersal of toxic beryllium.

A rapidly increasing source of toxicity is abbestos. Asbestos intake is by respiration or ingestion. In industrial operations this can be controlled. Small amounts of asbestos act as carcenogenic muculi. The appearance of asbestos induced tumors in women has implicated asbestos-cement water pipe as the source of asbestos. This problem requires solution in view of the increasing use of asbestos-cement pipe for domestic



CIVIL ENGINEERING

THE MAGAZINE OF ENGINEERED CONSTRUCTION • UNITED ENGINEERING CENTER, 345 EAST 47th

March 31, 1969

File: C-3-2.R

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Mr. William P. Raines,
Director of Public Relations
The Johns-Manville Corp.
22 East 40th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Bill:

As we discussed, here is an advance proof of the Correction Note which will run in the April issue of CIVIL ENGINEERING--ASCE.

Sincerely,

Kneeland A. Godfrey, Jr.

enc.

Correction

An inaccuracy appeared in a news account in the March issue, page 53, reporting on the paper given by Dr. Herbert E. Stokinger, toxicologist from the National Center for Urban and Industrial Health, Cincinnati, at the ASCE National Meeting on Water Resources Engineering held in New Orleans.

The sentence was "The appearance of asbestos-induced tumors in women has implicated asbestos-cement water pipe as the source of asbestos."

We have been advised by Dr. Stokinger that this statement was not made.

There is "no evidence at all at this time that the presumably very low-level exposure by ingestion which might occur by intake of water supplied through asbestos-cement pipe has resulted in a recognized health hazard," according to Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, who is referred to by the U. S. Public Health Service as a "recognized authority" in the field. Dr. Selikoff is professor and chairman, Division of Environmental Medicine, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York City.

For water supply systems, asbestos-cement pipe meets the specifications of the American Water Works Association and of the U. S. Government. Under Federal Specification SS-P-351A, asbestos-cement water pipe is sold to the U. S. Public Health Service for use in Indian reservations in the West.

(The last two paragraphs are taken from the Position Paper "Asbestos-Cement Water Pipe and Human Health," prepared by Johns-Manville Corp., 22 East 40th St., New York, N. Y. 10016.)