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—THE NASHVILLE BANNER, Wed., Feb. 21, 1968

Health Board To Review Asbestos Water Pipe Use

The Metro Health Board on a motion by Dr. David Strayhorn Sr. voted today to reconsider its stand on the use of asbestos-concrete pipe for water lines.

The board voted Jan. 17 to "not approve the use of the pipe" until sufficient information could be obtained to prove the pipe was medically safe.

Metro health director Dr. Joseph Bistowish said the board's action did not mean that it would change its position concerning the pipe but only that it would reconsider any information concerning the safety of the pipe.

"Asbestos is a known cancer causing agent when inhaled." Dr. Bistowish said, but added that sufficient information is not available concerning its use as a water conducting material.

The U.S. Public Health Service is initiating a study into asbestos pipe, probably as a result of an inquiry to them from the health department.

"The service told us we were the first municipal health board to raise the question concerning the safety of the pipe," Dr. Bistowish said.

Representatives of an asbestos-cement pipe producer spoke to the board to explain their position. The spokesmen said they objected "to being guilty until proven innocent."