

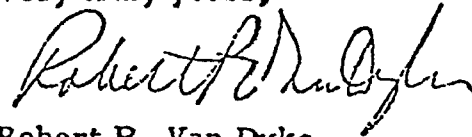
16 September 1980

Mrs. Adlene Harrison
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI
First International Building
1201 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75210

Dear Mrs. Harrison:

The attached response paper from Region IV, United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding water pipeline materials is most informative. Water utilities are most perplexed in trying to select a pipe material that does present the lowest health risk. I would appreciate your review of this response paper and your confirmation that the opinions expressed do represent the present thinking of the Environmental Protection Agency. The City Water Board is presently reviewing our present practices to insure that the material being used for our water distribution system meets all the existing regulations and presents the least health risk to our customers. As you know, the City Water Board's source of supply is the Edwards Aquifer which is classified as a nonaggressive water and according to the response paper asbestos cement pipe should be the best selection. However, your comments regarding the opinions expressed in this response paper are requested to insure that an erroneous conclusion is not reached.

Very truly yours,



Robert P. Van Dyke
General Manager

Enclosure

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FROM: CITY WATER BOARD 10/10/80
(Jack Mullen, Brooks & Associates, 227-3454)

Asbestos cement pipe used by the City Water Board in its water distribution system represents the least health risk to customers, according to a letter received by the utility from the Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Dallas.

Replying to a request from Robert P. Van Dyke, CWB general manager, seeking EPA's opinion on acceptable water pipeline materials, Mac A. Weaver, the region's acting chief of water supply said:

"Extensive evidence indicates that in systems having an Aggressive Index (AI) greater than 12.0, asbestos cement pipe does not dissolve and thereby release asbestos fibers. Such material does represent the lowest health risk pipe material for non-aggressive waters according to the best information available to us at this time."

Van Dyke explained that using this Index San Antonio's water is classified as mildly aggressive to non-aggressive and is suitable for pipelines made of asbestos cement.

He said CWB will continue its investigation of materials being used in the utility's water distribution system to insure they meet all existing regulations and present the least health risk to water users.