PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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EPA Moves on U.S. Pollution Standards

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) put the machinery in motion Wednesday to set nationwide standards on specific types and sources of air pollution.

Airborne emissions from industrial plants and incinerators, as well as mercury, beryllium and asbestos, are major targets and more antipollution steps are to come.

Within two years, the agency said, it will set performance standards for 30 other categories of stationary poilution sources and may list other airborne substances in the hazardous category which now includes mercury, beryllium and asbestos.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

In one public notice Wednesday, EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus started a procedure to establish within 210 days standards governing airborne emissions from large power plants and incinerators, and all sulfuric acid, nitric acid and cement plants.

In another notice, he began a move to set within a year nationwide standards on emissions from any source of mercury, beryllium and asbestos.

Mercury, publicized last year as a water contaminant, can build up in the human body and cause irreversible damage to the nervous system.

Beryllium, another toxic metal, attacks the respiratory system and can cause death or chronic ailment.

Asbestos dust can cause serious lung disorders.

Ruckelshaus said listing them as hazardous "doesn't mean that current levels in the air are dangerous.

"It means that even slight exposure to asbestos, mercury and beryllium may threaten human health, and we must carefully control any release of the substances to the environment.".

Ruckelshaus must publish proposed standards for these three substances within 120 days and hold public hearings on them within 30 days thereafter.

There was no indication what types of emission would be controlled from stationary sources such as power plants, but the most common targets are well known: sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and fly ash.

If the standards cover pollutants which aren't already included by a state's air quality standards, federal law requires the state to develop and enforce standards for the newly proscribed substance.

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