



THE STATE OF WYOMING

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Engineers

FROM: Larry Robinson, Program Manager *LR*

DATE: February 27, 1997

SUBJECT: Asbestos cement pipe. Revised policies 13.9.10 and 14.14.13. Also replaces policies 13.9.4, 13.9.5, 14.14.6 and 14.14.7.

Section 14 Chapter XII and Section 9 Chapter XI, Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations includes asbestos cement (AC) pipe as an approved material for both water supply and wastewater systems. In 1986 EPA banned the use of AC pipe and because of this, we also did not allow its use (See policies 13.9.4 and 14.14.7). Since that time EPA has lifted and reinstated the ban a couple of different times (See policies 13.9.5, 14.14.6 and the original policies 13.9.10 and 14.14.13). In 1993 a court case resulted in an order for EPA to lift the ban on AC pipe and this was done in the November 5, 1993 federal register. Therefore, any state ban on the use of AC pipe is also rescinded.

The NSF Standard 61 is intended to certify water system components, such as pipe, as to suitability for protection of human health for products directly in contact with water supplies. Wyoming has not adopted this standard, however, we have a policy of recommending materials approved under Standard 61 whenever possible. It is not always possible, however, because of the limited number of manufacturers who have obtained certification under Standard 61. NSF has not received any applications to certify AC pipe and this material is therefore not currently approved under Standard 61. NSF personnel indicated to me that it is very likely that AC pipe could be certified to meet the drinking water standard for asbestos which is 7 million fibers per liter longer than 10 microns. Since there is very little use of AC pipe, it is unlikely that any manufacturer will go to the expense of obtaining certification.

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AC pipe is available from a very limited number of suppliers but is still used in some cities in southern California and Arizona. The supply is from a Mexican manufacturer but does have AWWA C-400 certification as required by our regulations.

Where AC pipe in existing lines is replaced or abandoned, disposal of the old materials should be coordinated with Gerald Blackwell, AQD, Cheyenne. The asbestos used in AC pipe is non-friable and can therefore be placed in some land fills depending on local requirements for wrapping. Blackwell recommends against abandoning in place.

LRR:ks
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cc: Gerald Blackwell