

intervene or a protest in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 1.8 or 1.10). No requests for extension of this time will be entertained. All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a petition to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

KENNETH F. PLUMB,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 79-8899 Filed 3-22-79; 8:45 am]

[6450-01-M]

[Docket No. TC79-29]

TRANSWESTERN PIPELINE CO.

Notice of Tariff Filing

MARCH 20, 1979.

Take notice that on March 16, 1979, Transwestern Pipeline Company (Respondent), P.O. Box 2521, Houston, Texas 77001, filed in Docket No. TC79-29 tariff sheets as part of its FERC Gas Tariff to provide on an interim basis a plan for the delivery of natural gas for essential agricultural and high-priority uses in accordance with section 401 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and part 281 of the Regulations thereunder, all as more fully set forth in said sheets which are on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

The tariff sheets tendered by Respondent adopt and incorporate by reference the regulations set forth in 18 CFR 281.101 through 281.111 to provide that Respondent's plan for the curtailment of deliveries, to the maximum extent practicable, does not cause curtailment of deliveries of natural gas for essential agricultural and high-priority uses.

In accordance with the finding and determination by the Commission in the order issued March 6, 1979, in Docket No. RM79-13 (44 FR 13464, March 12, 1979), that good cause exists for waiver of the 30-day notice required by section 4 of the Natural Gas Act and section 154.22 of the Regulations thereunder, the tendered tariff sheets shall be accepted for filing to be effective April 1, 1979, without further order of the Commission unless suspended on or before March 31, 1979, in accordance with section 4 of the Natural Gas Act.

Any person desiring to be heard or make any protest with reference to said tariff sheets should on or before March 26, 1979, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

Washington, D.C. 20426, a petition to intervene or a protest in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 1.8 or 1.10). No requests for extension of this time will be entertained. All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a petition to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

KENNETH F. PLUMB,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 79-8900 Filed 3-22-79; 8:45 am]

[6560-01-M]

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

[OTS-060004; FRL 1080-41]

**ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS IN
SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

School Asbestos Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice Announcing Program.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is initiating a nationwide information and technical assistance program to encourage States and school districts to identify and control exposure problems caused by asbestos-containing materials in school buildings. EPA will distribute Guidance Packages to States and school districts and provide technical assistance through its Regional Offices. EPA will also collect data on the extent of asbestos exposure problems in school buildings and of actions taken to correct the exposure problems. The program focuses on asbestos exposure problems in public school buildings, but EPA will provide information and technical assistance to owners of other buildings upon request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain copies of the Guidance Package or other EPA publications:

Mr. John B. Ritch, Jr., Director, Industry Assistance Office (TS-799), Office of Toxic Substances, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Call toll-free 800-424-9065. (In Washington, D.C., call 554-1404.)

To obtain technical assistance on how to identify or correct asbestos exposure problems contact your Region-

al Asbestos Coordinator in the listed States:

Mr. Paul Heffernan, EPA Region I, JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, MA 02203, (617) 223-0585—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island.

Mr. Marcus Kantz, EPA Region II, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 802, New York, NY 10007, (212) 264-9538—New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

Mr. Fran Dougherty, EPA Region III, Curtis Building, Sixth and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 597-8683—Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, District of Columbia.

Mr. Dwight Brown, EPA Region IV, 345 Courtland Street, Atlanta, GA 30308, (404) 881-3222—Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida.

Dr. Lyman Condie, EPA Region V, 230 South Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 353-2291—Toll-free numbers: Illinois: 800-972-3170; Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio: 800-621-3191.

Dr. Norman Dyer, EPA Region VI, First International Bldg., 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, TX 75270, (214) 729-2734—Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico.

Mr. Wolfgang Brandner, EPA Region VII, 324 East 11th Street, Room 1500, Kansas City, MO 64106, (816) 374-3030—Toll-free numbers: (Leave name and number and ask to have your call returned) Missouri: 800-892-3837; Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas: 800-321-3714.

Mr. Ralph Larsen, EPA Region VIII, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, CO 80295, (303) 837-3926—Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado.

Mr. John Yim, EPA Region IX, 215 Fremont Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 556-3352—California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii.

Ms. Margo Partridge, EPA Region X, 1200 Georgia Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 442-5560—Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA is concerned about the possibility that large numbers of school children and school employees are exposed to asbestos fibers released from asbestos-containing materials in school buildings. The Agency is coordinating a Federal, State, and local effort to determine the extent of the problem and to take appropriate corrective measures where needed.

There are three reasons for EPA's concern: (1) asbestos-containing materials were used extensively in buildings throughout the United States; (2) under certain circumstances asbestos fibers can be released from asbestos-containing materials into a building's air supply where they can be inhaled; and (3) because no one has ever established a safe or threshold level of exposure to asbestos, EPA believes that any exposure increases a person's risk of developing lung cancer, mesothelioma, asbestosis, or other diseases.

Although there is a basis for concern, there is not enough information to assess the full extent of the prob-

lem. No one knows which buildings or how many buildings have asbestos-containing materials. Whether there is an asbestos exposure problem in a building depends on the type of materials present and on the particular circumstances in the building. Not all asbestos-containing materials cause exposure problems.

There is generally a long latency period between exposure to asbestos and development of an asbestos-related disease. The length of the latency period depends on the amount and duration of exposure. The latency period may exceed twenty years, and people who are exposed to asbestos in school may develop asbestos-related diseases decades later. Children, adolescents, and school employees spend many hours in school buildings for many years, and the longer a person is exposed the greater his or her chance of developing an asbestos-related disease.

The amount of asbestos which is released into a school's air depends on a number of factors, including the activities in the school. Indoor athletic activities, such as basketball games, may cause vibrations which cause the release of asbestos fiber. Capricious behavior by students may cause damage to asbestos-containing materials, and damaged material is likely to release asbestos fibers.

Only friable asbestos-containing materials, materials that can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder in the hand, are likely to cause exposure problems. In some asbestos-containing materials, such as vinyl floor tiles, the asbestos fibers are firmly bound or encased. These materials will not release asbestos fibers unless they are cut, ground, or sanded.

Friable asbestos-containing materials were used extensively in schools (and other buildings) for insulation and fireproofing from the end of World War II until 1973. Most of these materials were applied by spraying and are commonly referred to as sprayed asbestos materials. In 1973, EPA prohibited the spraying of friable asbestos-containing materials for insulation or fireproofing. This ban was extended in 1978 to cover spraying for nearly all uses.

Not all friable materials were spray applied. Some were troweled on. Materials which were troweled on vary from soft to hard; hard materials are not friable.

The only sure way to determine whether a building contains friable asbestos-containing material is to visually inspect the building, take samples of the suspect material, and have the samples analyzed at a laboratory. Building records do not always indicate whether asbestos-containing materials were used. Visual inspection alone is not adequate because some fri-

able materials contain cellulose, glass fibers, or other fibers and look virtually identical to asbestos-containing materials.

In October 1978 EPA conducted a telephone survey to learn how many States had established programs to inspect schools, identify exposure problems, and take corrective actions. The survey revealed that thirty-one States had programs but only about five percent of the nation's 90,000 public schools had been inspected. Many State officials expressed a need for guidance materials and stated that they would start or improve school asbestos programs after receiving those materials.

In order to aid and encourage States and school districts to identify and correct asbestos exposure problems in school buildings, EPA has developed an extensive guidance program. The program focuses on the "Guidance Package" which contains all of the information needed by a school district to conduct an asbestos control program. The Guidance Package will be distributed to public school districts either directly or through State agencies and is available to the public upon request. In order to supplement the Guidance Package EPA (1) has trained individuals in its ten Regional Offices to provide assistance, (2) has coordinated its program with other Federal agencies which will also provide assistance, (3) has produced a videotape which highlights the information in the Guidance Package; (4) will hold training sessions for interested State officials, and (5) has established a toll-free telephone number for people who have questions about sample analysis or selection of an analytical laboratory. In addition, EPA has begun a reporting program through which data will be collected to assess the extent of the asbestos material problem in schools and to determine the need for further Federal action.

The Guidance Package contains two documents. One manual explains a step-by-step procedure for identifying and correcting an asbestos exposure problem in a building. These steps are visually inspecting for friable material, having the samples analyzed for asbestos, performing an exposure assessment if asbestos is present, and taking corrective action if necessary. This manual is written for school officials.

The second manual contains more detailed information on asbestos identification and corrective measures. This manual will be particularly useful to school personnel, contractors, and others involved in actual asbestos inspection and control activities.

EPA's Regional offices will work directly with States. In each EPA Regional Office, a specially trained indi-

vidual, the Regional Asbestos Coordinator, can provide technical assistance or information. (The Regional Asbestos Coordinators are listed above). Each Regional Asbestos Coordinator has available for loan a videotape which highlights the steps necessary to identify and correct an exposure problem. In addition, each Coordinator will develop a training session (or sessions) for interested State officials in the Region. The first Regional session was held in Atlanta on February 6, 1979.

EPA has coordinated this program with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The agencies are providing Regional personnel to work with State and local officials in the areas of health effects and worker protection. Names and addresses of individuals to contact at these agencies are included in the Guidance Package.

EPA has arranged for Research Triangle Institute, a not-for-profit scientific research institute affiliated with Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina, to answer specific questions about analysis of bulk samples for asbestos or selection of a laboratory for bulk sample analysis. Research Triangle Institute can be telephoned toll-free at 800-334-8571, extension 6892.

In addition to the guidance program, EPA has begun a reporting program. EPA requests that school districts report the results of their inspections for asbestos-containing material and any corrective actions taken. Each Guidance Package contains reporting forms that can be used for this purpose. EPA will use this information to determine the extent of the problem caused by asbestos-containing materials in public schools and to evaluate the need for further Federal actions. This information will be available to the public upon request.

EPA expects most States to have public school inspection programs in place shortly. Over thirty States already have programs, and some have already inspected all or nearly all of their schools. The success of the program depends on maximum local, State, and Federal cooperation.

Dated: March 15, 1979.

STEVEN D. JELLINEK,
Assistant Administrator
for Toxic Substances.

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