## Proposed EPA asbestos ban will require water test test

By OLIVIER UYTTEBROUCK

The proposed Environmental Protection Agency prohibition on asbestos-cement pipe and other asbestos products will require water districts to test for asbestos fib-

ers in drinking water, an EPA official says.

However, this requirement, which was announced last month, will probably not take effect for at least a year, says Mark Mc-Casland, an environmental engineer in the

EPA's Dallas office. David Simmons, manager of Bryan's water and wastewater department, says asbestos-cement pipe accounts for 30 percent of Bryan's 400 miles of water mains.

Benny Luedke, College Station water and sewer department superintendent, says that asbestos-cement pipes have been in widespread use in College Station for over

The EPA proposal sets a recommended maximum contaminant level for drinking water at 7.1 million asbestos fibers per liter, - but since this is only a recomended level, no actual testing is required yet, McCasland

says.

McCasland says the proposed ban is largely in response to health risks posed to

asbestos industry employees.

The proposed EPA prohibition would ban the manufacture and distribution of a number of asbestos products including asbestos-cement pipe but would allow the continued use of asbestos-cement pipe already in place as well as existing stockwiles. ready in place as well as existing stockpiles of the pipe, McCasland says.

The EPA plans to hold public hearings to determine how quickly the prohibition will be implemented, McCasland says.

Currently, water supplies are not being tested for asbestos by the EPA, the Texas Department of Health or municipal water departments.

Concern has risen in recent years that in areas with some combination of soft, acidic and alkaline water, the inner cement lining of asbestos-cement pipe may corrode, exAsbestos-cement pipe accounts for 30 percent of Bryan's 400 miles of water mains.

— David Simmons, manager of Bryan's water and wastewater department.

posing drinking water directly to asbestos and admitting asbestos fibers into the water

Texas A&M chemistry professor, Rod O'Connor, says recent tests show that water in the Bryan-College Station area tends to be slightly hard and slightly basic. He says he doubts that water in this area is

Hard water is defined as water containing high concentrations of calcium and

David Pullen, an engineer with the city of

College Station, says although asbestos is not specifically tested for in drinking water here, it would be apparent in the bacterio-logical tests performed each month by the Department of Health.

However, biologist Tom Bricker with the Department of Health in Austin says samples submitted for biological analysis are generally not observed under an electron microscope, which is necessary to detect as-

"Unless we were testing specifically for asbestos, we wouldn't know if and how much was there," Bricker says.

The method for analyzing water for as-bestos fibers outlined in a 1980 EPA report involves filtering water through a fine membrane and observing the collected material by electron microscope at 20,000x magnification.

According to EPA studies, asbestos also can be released into the water supply when

asbestos-cement pipes are broken org

Simmons says that ground nor due to moisture in the soil often will KATHERIN asbestos-cement pipe to snap.

McCasland says the greatest release bestos into drinking water occurs wh and taps are made into new or existing ZINGE

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Concentrations of asbestos 10 even into studyi higher than normal have persisted aborder than studyi ing water for weeks after taps have gned a computer made in asbestos-cement pipe, according to the large table to delive the studying the studying the studying the studying table to delive the studying table the studying table to delive the studying table to delive the studying table the studying table to delive the studying table the studying table to delive the studying table the studyi one EPA study.

McCasland says that usually after no-pass, no-play made in asbestos-cement pipe, the leep his son from flushed out several times before its &M Consolidate the lines that supply the public.

In College Station, pipes are flusher after taps are made to prevent meter being clogged, Leudke says. Howere government agencies monitor how to

### Contributor names to be on Capitol monument

AUSTIN — Texas House Speaker Gib Lewis on Tuesday helped unveil a miniature of the \$2 million Sesquicentennial monument that will be placed on the

Capitol ground. The 20-ton bronze monument is 37 feet long, 17 feet high and is titled "Texas Legacy." It was commissioned by the 1985 Legislature but will be paid for by a fund drive sponsored by the Texas Historical Foundation along with the American Masters Foundation of Houston.

The monument depicts two cowboys on horseback herding five Longhorn steers and a heifer across a section of railroad track.

All contributors of \$25,000 or more will have their names engraved on the base of the mon-

In addition, Lurie said, anyone contributing \$25,000 or more will be eligible for a drawing and the winner's likeness, or anyone he chooses if they are male, will be used for one of the two cowboy

### New child restraint law deemed successful

By KAREN BOEHNKE

Reporter

Twenty infants have been saved from death in car accidents since the Texas Child Passenger Safety Law went into effect last year, according to statistics from the Texas Department of Health.

The law requires that children under 2 ride in approved safety seats are proving a major reason for and that children from 2 to 4 be in decline is the use of safety seats.' safety seats or seat belts.

During a nine-month period in Evans said traffic accidents are the 1984, 63 children aged 4 and under number one cause of death for chilwere killed in wrecks. Last year the count was 43, a 31 percent decrease.

seats, said Carolyn Evans, coordina- percent of injuries to children in ac-

tor of the Safe Riders Program at the Cidents could be prevented if rethrough demonstrations of Uses. Department of Health.

Evans said the decline wasn't a

Other states that had the law before Texas saw similar decreases," Evans said. "What is really striking about the statistics is that not only are we seeing a decline in deaths, we are proving a major reason for that

Evans said traffic accidents are the

dren under 4. Ount was 43, a 31 percent decrease. According to the department, as many as 90 percent of deaths and 85

Sgt. Choya Wallen of the Bryan

Police Department said many parents aren't using the seats properly. Often parents will put their children in safety seats but not strap them with seat belts, she said. This is not only against the law but danger-

Anita Pitt, coordinator of the Community Occupant Protection Program for the Brazos Valley Development Council, said parents who don't comply with the law generally do so mainly out of habit.

To combat this neglect, the pro-

A violation of the law ma in a \$25-\$50 fine for first offel The fine may be refunded if he different order lator shows proof of gettingack to the person seat within 10 days. The answers are

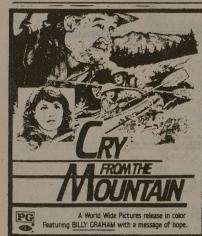
Wallen said that five demation was I were issued locally in Januar aning all knowle that one was dismissed becamquestion was k violator bought a safety seat. The program of score and store

The law is not as strict as other states. For example, New This allows the ico law requires all persons age 11 to use a seat belt or at Not only can

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