



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 27 1986

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honourable Marcel Masse
Member of Parliament for Frontenac
Minister, Department of Energy,
Mines and Resources
Ottawa, Canada K1A0E4

Dear Mr. Masse:

Member of Parliament for Frontenac
Minister, Department of Energy,
Mines and Resources
Ottawa, Canada K1A0E4

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Dear Mr. Masse:

This responds to your letter of October 3, 1986, concerning EPA's decision not to convene a panel of international experts to testify and be cross-examined on the health effects of asbestos.

While EPA appreciates your concerns, we must respectfully reiterate our position that such a panel does not appear to be necessary to disclose additional information not already in the record considered by the Agency. Numerous experts have testified at the public hearing held in July 1986 and, as noted in the Agency's September 22, 1986 letter granting requests for cross-examination, EPA's record in the asbestos rulemaking contains many documents describing the views of various experts and panels of experts. The Agency believes that writing to international experts to solicit their additional views for the record will prove to be an efficient method for ensuring all issues are fully evaluated.

Despite your reservations at this time, I am hopeful that, when EPA makes its final decision on its asbestos rule, you will agree that the Agency has examined all the relevant evidence in a process which is both fair and is perceived by the public to be fair.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,


Lee M. Thomas

cc: Alan E. Gotlieb
Canadian Embassy
Washington, D.C.

Canadian Embassy

Washington, D.C.

SEE Canada, Embassy
of encl. to R/C
F file

of incl. to R/c

F file