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USEPA, OPTS, CCD/Canada

OPTS 62036 Asbestos Ban

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FILE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

62036

NN2-10

OCT 1 1986

MEMORANDUMOFFICE OF
PESTICIDES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCESSUBJECT: Visit of the Canadian Minister of Energy, Mines
and Resources to the AdministratorFROM: David L. Dull, Deputy Director
Chemical Control Division

TO: Asbestos Ban/Phase-Down Rulemaking Docket

On September 16, 1986, at 9:00 A.M., a meeting took place between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, Lee M. Thomas, the Canadian Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Marcel Masse, and the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Allan Gotlieb. Accompanying these principals to the meeting were various staff from EPA, the Canadian Embassy, and the Federal Government of Canada.

Mr. Masse expressed the Canadian government's concern with EPA's proposed asbestos rulemaking, the goal of which would be the phasing out of use of asbestos products over an approximately 10 year period. Specifically, Mr. Masse requested that the agency assure fairness and due process in this matter by holding a cross-examination hearing, and that a final decision on the ultimate outcome of the rulemaking be reached as soon as possible.

Administrator Thomas responded that the Agency wishes to have as open and complete a rulemaking process as possible, with a full public airing of all issues. Mr. Thomas indicated, however, that there is an inherent conflict between such a full hearing and a quick decision.

Further discussions ensued regarding the merits of a ban approach compared with a controlled use approach. The value of research in elucidating issues in this matter was discussed. Past technical exchanges between Canada and the United States regarding asbestos were reviewed. The Administrator emphasized the value and importance of having in the record Canada's experiences in dealing with the hazards presented by asbestos.