Message

From: Bolen, Derrick [bolen.derrick@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/8/2019 3:28:36 PM
To: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Asbestos NYT Memos
Attachments: asbestos memos NYT 5-8-19.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Thank you,
Derrick Bolen

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Hartman, Mark" <Hartman.Mark@epa.gov>
> **To:** "Bolen, Derrick" <bolen.derrick@epa.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Asbestos NYT Memos**
>
> FYI
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Pierce, Alison" <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>
> > **To:** "Hartman, Mark" <Hartman.Mark@epa.gov>
> > **Subject: Asbestos NYT Memos**
> >
> > Memos attached, story below. -a
> >
> > *E.P.A. Leaders Disregarded Agency's Experts in Issuing Asbestos Rule, Memos Show*
> >
> > WASHINGTON — Senior officials at the Environmental Protection Agency disregarded the advice of their own scientists and lawyers in April when the agency issued a rule that restricted but did not ban asbestos, according to two internal memos.
> >
> > Because of its fiber strength and resistance to heat, asbestos has long been used in insulation and construction materials. It is also is a known carcinogen. Last month's rule kept open a way for manufacturers to adopt new uses for asbestos, or return to certain older uses, but only with E.P.A. approval.
> >
> > Andrew Wheeler, the E.P.A. administrator, said when the rule was issued that it would significantly strengthen public health protections. But in the memos, dated Aug. 10, more than a dozen of E.P.A.'s own experts urged the agency to ban asbestos outright, as do most other industrialized nations.
> >
> > "Rather than allow for (even with restrictions) any new uses for asbestos, E.P.A. should seek to ban all new uses of asbestos because the extreme harm from this chemical substance outweighs any benefit — and because there are adequate alternatives to asbestos," staff members wrote.

Under President Trump, the E.P.A. has rolled back environmental rules and faced criticism from pulling back on regulating toxic chemicals. Last month, the agency weakened a proposed standard for cleaning up groundwater pollution caused by toxic chemicals. In March it scaled back a proposed ban on a deadly chemical in paint strippers. And it rejected a proposed ban on the use of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide that has sickened farm workers and been linked to developmental disabilities in their children

Michael Abboud, an E.P.A. spokesman, declined to address why the Trump administration had acted against the advice of the agency's in-house experts, saying in a statement, "We don't comment on deliberative intra-agency comments." He referred The New York Times to the agency's news release about the rule.

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