

CONNECT M3

They Hide Problems This Big!

TB-6365B

When the problem is this massive – they really don't know how to deal with it

- 1 The issue we're thinking about today is multi-levelled and wide-ranging. In this particular case, the issue is massive – it's money and health related – and known about for decades by both industry management and governments.

There're a host of subjects I could be introducing here given the above lines. But the subject I am exploring with you, in this particular Thought Byte, is one relating to water – drinking water – and the poisoning of it with known-to-be dangerous – if ingested – cancer generating particles. Those particles originate from the material breakdown of the pipes delivering our water.



- 2 For decades now we have all been aware of the dangerous material, known to the world, as asbestos. It has been used in the building industry extensively to provide insulation and commonly, roofing tiles. The material first came into use in the early 20thC and was regarded as truly revolutionary. This fact alone today, is the trigger for many warning bells, on the basis that such discoveries – often found to be good at first – are later found, to be not! Asbestos – a naturally occurring mineral – mined all around the world and particularly in Canada, was found to have exceptional qualities and particularly suited to the building industry. But the views on it have changed.
- 3 Mixed with other constituents – such as concrete – asbestos products were found to be cheap to manufacture, light in weight and possessing high tensile strength characteristics, compared to most other alternative materials. Not only did it become the *go-to* choice for builders across the world, but it quickly found another application. The water industry discovered that asbestos cement pipes were ideal for delivering water to the user.

Accordingly - across the world for a number of decades - asbestos concrete water pipes were buried in the ground to deliver drinking water to millions upon millions of homes, businesses, hospitals, venues and schools.

- 4 And frankly, once they were in the ground, they were forgotten about. A fair and reasonable thing to do in the circumstances, unless something happens. And something did happen - as some pipes did fail and they keep failing. Some failed, due to ground disturbance by natural or human related causes - earthquakes or unguided construction work for example. Such failures being revealed in a total loss of water supply or just partial leaks being evident above ground. But a high number have failed - and continue to fail in rising numbers due to another cause. A cause which was given little thought to at any time - if any.

Some of the asbestos water pipes have been in the ground - and supposedly forgotten about - for almost 100yrs now. That is a long time for any manmade piece of kit to maintain its integrity. The reality, is that these pipes are now failing due to their age and gradual deterioration - doing so in ever increasing numbers, as reports indicate. There was one such significant failing in Sheffield, UK. In December 2022, the pipe failure affected 3000 homes and repairs went on for weeks. The residents' unpleasant memories of that event were added to by the realisation of related health concerns.

And in the process of the pipes failing - and way before the pipes do fail completely - the fabric of the pipes degrades and slowly breaks up. In theory, these pipes probably leak water for years, which means two things.

1. Otherwise safe drinking water, is lost, by slowly leaking into the ground or on the surface - neither ever being noticed by anyone
 2. The dangerous and highly-toxic asbestos breaks down slowly, with minute particles leaching into the on-going water supply - unbeknown to anyone, including the end consumer
- 5 The on-going loss of good and safe drinking water is one thing. The far more important and serious issue of course, is the leaching into the water supply of the highly-toxic asbestos particulates.

Most adults have some degree of awareness about the apparent dangers of asbestos poisoning, due to mainstream media exposure over many years. In previous decades, the news media has covered this issue from different perspectives. Those perspectives being the huge cost of removing asbestos from buildings, coupled to stories about those who worked with the material - unprotected - suffering or dying from ingestion of asbestos particles.

The interesting comment which has been repeatedly made - and made by persons who in some way, you could say, have *skin-in-the-game* - is that there is no public health risk to the public. Given what most people understand today about those particular commentators, that statement no longer does enough to put minds at rest. Many an expert from around the world - without *skin-in-the-game* - express a completely different message. It is a message of concern - and one can understand why.

- 6 Governments, ministers, water industry executives, backed by the WHO - the world's guardian of health, as we're told it is - will consistently proclaim - that there is no risk to health. But do all these groups have an interest in telling people they're safe from harm - as they've repeatedly assured the citizens? In **June 2025**, an article titled: '**SNP ministers reject concerns over asbestos in drinking water**' appeared in **The Sunday Post** - a Scottish news platform. One might ask, why would anyone - a government minister - say that? What would make a representative of the people so sure - a politician charged to represent people's interests? Could it be that such people-types have been incentivised to make remarks like that - to hide a different truth? That is, a different truth proclaimed by so many experts from the field of asbestos and cancer studies. If the problem is so BIG, some might think it's best to deny it. Denying the problem is another word for attempting to hide the problem.
- 7 And why might it be best to hide a problem like this? Well, the usual reasons spring immediately to mind - being:
- To cover-up the failings of one party or another
 - To avoid having to spend money - enormous sums of money
 - To hide the fact that those in *the know* - knew - but said nothing

The cover-up of truth is nothing new in the history of the world. Libraries could be filled with books written on this topic alone. So, this reason is a certain possibility. But it doesn't stand alone.

The avoidance of spending money is another very tempting reason to consider. After all, the cost to any country of replacing thousands of miles of water pipes would be astronomical. And the replacement would take - with certain probability - decades to complete, even if the funding were available. In essence, this is a very credible second reason to hide the problem

The truth must be, that the longer the problem has been known about - by industry executives, government officials and ministers, among other investigators and research scientists - the more difficult the truth is to manage. It would doubtless be easier, for some at least, to pretend they knew nothing of the problem. The longer the problem is known about and hidden, the more difficult it naturally becomes to explain the non-actions of those with direct responsibility.

- 8 In the short period of time I have delved into this topic - literally less than a complete week right now - I've found next to no confirmation that any positive action is being done to address the problem, anywhere in the world. And when I say done, I don't mean digging up a country's infrastructure of pipework, but rather just a hint perhaps, that an outline plan is being formed by someone, ahead of setting in place a strategy to deal with this problem.

That is, nowhere, except for one country. **Kenya**. The Kenyan government has indeed recognised the problem - despite what so many other governments are telling their own citizens about harmless asbestos particles and backed by the world's primary and global health watchdog - the **WHO**. The Kenyan government seems to stand alone in caring about their citizens.

- 9 So, what is the takeaway from this story – beyond what must be more than obvious? To be realistic, these words written here are only just hinting at what is a truly horrific situation. I would not have written this Thought Byte had it not been for my first awareness through a chance phone call. It was a chance phone call which eventually led the conversation to a totally unrelated topic.

"Let me tell you what I discovered - and filmed - watching water company workers replacing burst pipes on an adjacent property."

That sentence – with the short elaborating video – triggered this dive into what was clearly a hidden problem – concealed as it has been for decades. Here I credit two people with a passionate interest in health and truth – related to water – both drinking water and waste water. I acknowledge the contributions made by [Julian Branch](#) and [Ash Smith](#), who have assisted in growing a collection of supporting media reports and enlightening scientific papers. These reports and papers are available to view via the **LINKS** below.

- 10 I asked above, what are the takeaways from this story. And the first answer would surely be – there is much to be dug out of the ground - beginning with the poisoning water pipes, as they are described! But truth needs digging out too – being the underlying truth behind what has happened and what *hasn't* happened. And the investigations into that truth will doubtless uncover persons - and their organisations - who have conspired to hide the problem from citizens all around the world – for decades!

There is also another takeaway I see – which I believe is even more important. It is the takeaway which underlies a principle I see so often and completely missed by other commentators on stories such as these.

There is *The Problem* to deal with as we know. But it should not stop there. What this story reveals – like so many others – is that *The System* we have in society doesn't serve society in the way it should and needs to. In one hand - there is *The Problem* – in another – *The System*.

Some simple points then to consider:

- Society has allowed to be established a system of administration – call it government by its usual name – to take full control of matters related to the Big Stuff in our lives. In this case, the water supply and water treatment for the whole nation – for all its citizens.
- There is no holding that administration to account. Opposition parties and their individual party members fail in this. The legacy news media used to play a role but no longer does, as people have come to realise. Basically, there is no mechanism available for citizens to check on the work and behaviours of the contracted administrators – at any time. The only judgement - or rather choice - available for citizens is the voting system rolled out once every five years – as it is in the UK.
- There is no mechanism either by which the administrators can be subjected to investigation - in depths needed – by a process that is independent of the administrators and controlled by a body specifically appointed directly by the citizens.

- There is no charter in place which specifically defines the roles of the administrators and the consequences for individuals should they stray from following the agreed charter.
- There is no provision or established mechanism whereby wrongdoing can be highlighted by any individual, whilst remaining protected in law. This is commonly known as the act of whistleblowing. It's strange and extraordinary, when one considers, that where a person discovers a wrongdoing of any kind – for example in either government or corporate spheres – and the whistleblower is found to have acted in the best interests of society as a whole – the person concerned is not considered a hero. Instead, the establishment or corporates – depending on the guilty party – seeks to silence at best or - pursues in law the individual concerned. Even suspicious deaths have resulted. Here I point to just four named whistleblowers. 3 died suspiciously. [Dr David Kelly](#) and [Barry Young](#) – in the establishment world. [John Barnett](#) and [Brandy Vaughan](#) – in the corporate world.
- Then there is the principle of who owns what – and why. Staying with the water industry – the UK's water supply and treatment industry was privatised in the **1980's** under the **Thatcher** government. Privatisation was hailed by many as a breakthrough concept – based on the principle that corporates are far better at planning, managing and controlling projects – particularly projects like the country's water infrastructure. By definition, corporate structures have proved they are much better at this kind of work than contracted administrators – or governments by another name.
- We have heard calls for the water industry to be taken back into public ownership. On hearing this call, many will remember the performance of British Rail – the state-owned railway company – which showed all travellers how not to run a business. Taking back possession of the industry, however, is a grand suggestion – at first sight - given the mess the water companies have made of the country's water business. But – and this is a key BUT!
Should the water business instead be taken back and placed into Citizen ownership – to be run by a citizen owned corporate business? In such a model, each citizen would hold ONE non-saleable share in that business and hold it for life. They will also be paid any surplus funds that business might generate – after all the asbestos cement pipes are replaced of course. In effect, it would be a specifically established water company to serve as a people's service company - NOT a profit generating vehicle for foreign investment banks and global investors.
In this model, the government has nothing to do with it – no need.

The concept of citizen ownership doesn't stop with water. It could extend to railways, airports, energy generation, postal services and even the NHS – albeit an NHS with a revised philosophy on healthcare. This extension of the Citizen Ownership idea is a subject for another Thought Byte another day.

But for now, these have been my current and immediate observations, thoughts and opinions on this subject today. What are your thoughts?

PS1 There are a number of informative articles on this subject available in the **STRINGS Index** linked to below.

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