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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 14, 1983

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

ATT-29

IN ATTENDANCE:

R. C. Allen - AT&T, Environmental Management
O. C. Arron - AT&T, Distribution Services
W. J. Avers - WECO, Safety and Environmental Engineering
A. G. Bickelman, M.D. - C&P Cos., Medical
G. P. Bisgeier, M.D. - N.J. Bell, Medical
J. M. Degen (Secretary) - AT&T, Safety
J. P. Dunn, M.D. - AT&T, Medical
J. E. Reese (Co-Chairman) - AT&T, Safety
R. W. Stone, M.D. (Co-Chairman) - AT&T, Medical
G. M. Wilkening - BTL, Safety and Environmental Health

GUESTS:

J. E. Barden - AT&T
G. S. Byrnes - AT&T
C. H. Mills - AT&T
W. J. Schreiber - BTL
M. M. Weiss - BTL
F. X. Worden - WECO

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indicated exposure levels to be well below the Action Level of 0.1 fiber per cc of air. In most office buildings it is inevitable that some ceiling tiles will be removed from time to time in order to perform maintenance or rearrangement of heating, electrical or communications equipment. When this activity takes place, the potential for short term exposures of the office workers increases, particularly if the cleanup procedures are inadequate and traces of insulation material can be observed on carpets or desktops. Periodic monitoring results may not be adequate to counter allegations from employees or OSHA that infrequent exposures to harmful levels are actually being experienced.

Mr. Degen advised the group that OSHA intends to propose a complete revision of the Asbestos Standard early in 1984. This revision will address all of the compliance areas that generally present problems to employers with non-fixed worksites, such as monitoring, change rooms, engineering controls, showers, etc. Organization Resources Counselors (ORC) is planning to hold an Asbestos Rip-Out Symposium in Washington, D.C. on March 27 and 28th. The purpose of this symposium is to develop credible documentation for OSHA on a variety of techniques and controls for controlling asbestos exposure during removal and maintenance activities. Office building exposure is one of the major problems to be addressed. The Group expressed interest in having the laboratories and one or more of the BOCs participate in the symposium; presenting data collected during the placement of wires and cables in false ceiling spaces.

While the new ETS will certainly focus attention on asbestos, it will not result in a major OSHA inspection blitz. The Asbestos Information Association has filed suit challenging OSHA on the necessity for an ETS. The fifth circuit court has issued a stay of the ETS pending the resolution of the suit. In all probability, the new permanent standard will be proposed and debated before the legal action on the ETS is concluded.

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