Industrial Hygiene Services

Environmental Health ..... Recognition, Evaluation, Control

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT USX-145a

April 2, 1984

Industrial Hygiene and Safety
Representatives

Health Hazard Alert

Recent air samples collected in the breathing zone of maintenance employees at one of our facilities illustrate the acute health hazard that results from using power tools on Transite materials. These samples indicated employee 15-minute exposure to asbestos of approximately 25 fibers per cubic centimeter of air (25 fibers/cc). The OSHA Standard allows a permissible peak (15 minute) exposure to asbestos of 10 fibers/cc.

Transite is a trade name product of the Johns-Manville Corporation. It is a composite asbestos/cement material used in rigid insulating board or pipe applications. Johns-Manville has informed us that it contains approximately 35% crysotile asbestos, by weight.

The OSHA Standard requires that "all hand-operated and power-operated tools which may produce or release asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limit . . ., such as, but not limited to, saws, scorers, abrasive wheels, and drills, shall be provided with local exhaust ventilation systems in accordance with subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph". Further, if this material is to be removed, it must be disposed of as an asbestos-containing product in accordance with EPA requirements.

Please advise me as to what specific steps will be taken to assure compliance with this regulation.

Fred.

Frederick M. Toca, Ph.D.
Manager-Industrial Hygiene

SDS/mdd

USX-98-05608

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