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Interoffice Communication

To Distribution

From T. G. Grumbles

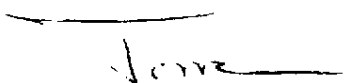
Date March 12, 1984

Subject RESPIRATOR USE: MEDICAL STATUS

The OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, 1910.134(b)(10), states the following: "Persons should not be assigned to tasks requiring use of respirators unless it has been determined that they are physically able to perform the work and use the equipment. The local physician shall determine what health and physical conditions are pertinent. The respirator user's medical status should be reviewed periodically (for instance, annually)."

The question has been raised as to how this requirement can be met at the Baltimore plant, consistent with the plant respiratory protection policy, Section 5.1. This issue is complex in terms of criteria to be used, methods of certification, and consequences of a negative indication of capability. However, I feel it is an important one to resolve, certainly in light of the increased emphasis on respiratory protection procedures in the plant.

To try and facilitate the initial discussions I have enclosed a flow chart with the basic topics of discussion and decision items. Input is needed from several groups. I would propose a conference call be arranged in the near future to initiate discussions.


Thomas G. Grumbles

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Enclosure

Distribution: Laurie Mauerman
Bill Maxon
J. R. Drumwright
Jim Carter
Mike Doty

VVV 000012504

