

November 1992

STANDARD AIRBURN

MMRB-0000545

TO: EAST PITTSBURGH WORKS, 2-C
Industrial Hygiene

Mr. H. W. Speicher

East Pittsburgh - 4MM
216-2024
February 13, 1973
Use of Asbestos
Materials in Soldering
Operations

cc: East Pittsburgh, 4G-10, Accident Prevention
cc: East Pittsburgh, 6G, Power Gen. Service
cc: San Francisco, Power Generation Service
cc: San Francisco, P.G.S. Safety Coordinator
cc: East Pittsburgh, 10L, Ins. Dev. Eng.
cc: East Pittsburgh, 4NN, Ins. Design Eng.
cc: East Pittsburgh, 5NN, Turbine Gen. Eng.

- Mr. E. J. Blavaty
- Mr. H. H. Smallwood
- Mr. S. B. Murphy
- Mr. R. L. Bergquist
- Mr. P. Curtis
- Mr. J. C. Botts
- Mr. J. D. Davidson

Please refer to previous correspondence on the above subject, the most recent being Mr. Bergquist's letter of February 7, 1973 and Mr. Blavaty's letter of the same date.

It is apparent that a detailed report of the tests made in the 3L-38 Lab on January 23, 1973, is required in order to present the issue for a fair evaluation. It may be that this Customer will require a similar test at the site when the soldering operation is performed in any event, but we should provide them with the specific data we obtained.

The simulated solder operation performed in the 3L-38 Lab consisted of the following:

9:00 A.M. -- Operator W. G. Craig was fitted with the monitor placed on his chest just below the mouth. A seven minute sample was taken while asbestos cloth was cut from a roll using shears and several large pieces were placed over a case representing the stator winding. A piece of wood 2 x 4 was used to simulate a coil connection and this was taped with asbestos tape in a manner similar to that used by a winder in taping over areas to be protected during soldering. This monitor sample was removed and a new sample was taken in the area from 9:15 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

1:30 P.M. -- Operator W. G. Craig was again fitted with the monitor placed as before and a 10 minute sample was taken while asbestos cloth and tape was cut and placed as before. In addition, asbestos paper was torn and placed around the test area (the asbestos paper was not available for the morning test). The monitor sample was removed and a new sample was taken in the area from 1:45 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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- Mr. E. J. Hlavaty
- Mr. H. H. Smallwood
- Mr. S. B. Murphy
- Mr. R. L. Bergquist
- Mr. P. Curtis
- Mr. J. C. Bodde
- Mr. J. D. Davidson

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An analysis of the monitor samples was made by Mr. John ~~Davis~~ for Mr. Speicher and a report of those findings should be issued by Mr. Speicher to complete the test data.

It should be noted that Mr. Hlavaty's recent letter indicates a questionable level of particle content in a test sample apparently taken at another time by Mr. Speicher when asbestos cloth was torn by hand. The soldering operation which is used in the field by Power Generation Service and shop winders does not involve the tearing of asbestos cloth by hand. It is always cut using either shears or knife and should be evaluated only on that basis rather than by tearing.

It is the writer's opinion that the use of asbestos cloth tape and paper in this application does not exceed the limitations imposed by the OSHA Federal Register and the test results obtained at this time support that position.

Please arrange to provide the data obtained in the January 23, 1973 test and, if it is felt to be necessary, arrange to perform similar tests on the Customer's property when the Power Generation Service Division starts the work on the Diablo Canyon unit for Pacific Gas and Electric.

We hope this action will satisfy the question which has been raised by the issue of the OSHA Federal Register limitations on the use of asbestos materials in our operation.

W. G. Craig
W. G. Craig
Service Performance Engineering
Large Generator Department
Large Rotating Apparatus Division

/jdb

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IN RE: ABRAMS

DECEMBER 1992