

VERACOMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

(Rev. 68)



FROM:	Hugh Hudson	PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT RMC-27
→ TO:	MEMO TO FILE	
COPY:		
DATE & SUBJECT:	November 3, 1988	
		REF: ASBESTOS COMPLAINT AND MSHA CITATIONS, PWR. HOI

On November 1, 1988 at about 3:15 p.m., I received a call from Ms. Patsy Tuttle, who stated that she was the Business Representative for a Millwright local in Corpus Christi. She said that some people working out of their local are presently working in our powerhouse and they were being required to work in a hazardous environment involving asbestos. She said that the men are working for General Electric (or Ada Construction, who is sub contracting for General Electric). Ms. Tuttle said that if we (Reynolds) didn't do something about it, she would. Ms. Tuttle was assured that we would check into the matter and someone would call her back (at 883-6226).

It was ascertained that the job the men are on is the overhaul on No. 2 Turbine Generator. The contractor is General Electric and the sub-contractor is Ada Construction. The G. E. Superintendent is Jim Gabaldon and the Ada Construction foreman is Carl White. Gene Melton is the Reynolds' Project Engineer.

After receiving the information, I contacted Gene Melton, advised him of my conversation with Ms. Tuttle, and asked him about the job. He stated that the job had been shut down last week and the men had not been allowed to work in the area since the job was shut down. I gave Gene Ms. Tuttle's telephone number and asked him to call her and give her this information. I then advised E. W. Warner and Dave Riner of the complaint.

At about 8:30 a.m. on the following day (11/2/88), MSHA supervisor Alex Baca and MSHA Inspector Ed Lilly arrived at the plant. Alex stated that they were at the plant in response to a contractor employee complaint against Reynolds. He then referred to the turbine generator overhaul at the powerhouse. Dave Riner and E. W. Warner were advised of the MSHA Inspector's arrival and the nature of the call. Mr. Baca requested that Paul Bucy, #1316, be contacted and allowed to accompany an inspection team to the job site. Foreman Howard Cave, who is familiar with the job, was also called to the plant to make the inspection tour. Hugh Hudson, D. Harriman, Gene Melton, Earl Martin, and Gilbert Myatt were also in attendance when the job site was inspected by the MSHA inspectors. Hourly employee Tom Niewoehner, #2534, was also at the inspection site and talked with Alex Baca concerning the contractor employees working around the asbestos.

As best as could be determined, Niewoehner saw the insulation being knocked off of a pipe and valve by contractor employees working off a scaffold under No. 2 T.G. Niewoehner told the men that the insulation was probably asbestos and he then allegedly told the contractor foreman and Gene Melton. When he saw that nothing was being done to stop the men from working, he contacted Stan Millsap and Hector DeLaGarza. This reportedly occurred on Tuesday, October 25th. Immediately after he was notified, Hector went to the powerhouse and took samples from the valve and line in question. He then told Ken Romine to discontinue the work, shut off the fans being used by the contractor at the job site, and rope off the immediate area of concern. This was done and

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no one was allowed in the immediate vicinity of the torn insulation since that time. The job site remained status quo until Thursday, October 27th, when Howard Cave assigned a crew to encapsulate the valve and line with CerTane 2050 and clean up the residue according to plant procedures.

At the time of the MSHA inspection, sample results had not been returned.. However the results were obtained by telephone prior to the MSHA inspectors leaving. The results were positive in both samples. The sample from the valve insulation showed 30 per cent Chrysotile and the sample from the line insulation showed 50 per cent Chrysotile asbestos.

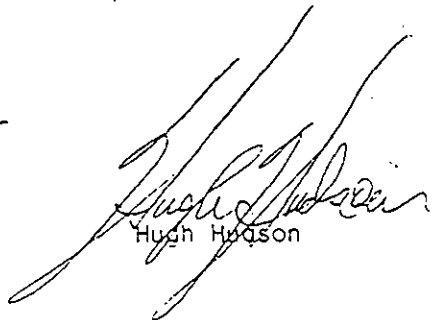
MSHA Inspector Ed Lilly issued two citations relating to this incident. Citation No. 3276347 states, " The Company failed to conduct a health survey on a work area at the powerhouse prior to starting work to determine the adequacy of control measures to be taken. Samples taken later were analyzed and showed 30% to 50% Chrysotile asbestos. " Also noted, " Samples were taken on 10-26-88 (should have been 10-25-88) and analyzed on 11-02-86."

Citation No. 3276348 states, " Employees were allowed to work in an area of the powerhouse without protective clothing or respirators while removing insulation hat was later found to contain 30% to 50% asbestos." Also noted, " Protective clothing and respirators were issued to persons working in area."

During the exit interview with D. Riner and D. Packebush present, Ed Lilly stated that the Sherwin Plant has an excellent procedure but the procedures were not followed. Proper removal of the insulation commenced during the time the MSHA inspections were still in the plant and both citations were abated.

On Thursday November 3rd, Hector DeLaGarza and I returned to the job site. Hector talked with the men doing the clean-up and it was ascertained that the containers we have are not large enough to contain the insulation coming from the pipe and that which will eventually have to be removed from the belly of the turbine. It was decided that an asbestos removal contractor would be called in to complete the job prior to allowing the General Electric people to continue with the overhaul of the T.G.

Photos were taken of the pipe, valves and residue in question at the time of the inspection tour on November 2nd.


Hugh Hudson

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