From Westinghouse Building 1558
WIN 272-3891
Date November 9, 1984
Subject Asbestos

To : Westinghouse Building 2325
E. V. Clarke, Jr.

This is in reply to your inquiry concerning asbestos in Westinghouse products and facilities.

PRODUCTS

We recently ran for USEPA a survey of the use of asbestos mixtures in Westinghouse products. The data, shown on the attachment, are averages for 1979-81. Five plants showed significant use -- Bedford, East Pittsburgh, Greenville, Sykesville and Raleigh. Raleigh ceased using asbestos in 1981. Sykesville has reduced its usage to 10-50 per cent of 1979-81 levels, depending on product line. East Pittsburgh no longer uses asbestos.

The fraction of asbestos in a mixture generally runs from 20 to 40 per cent. In most applications, the material is contained in another product and is not readily accessible. In the case of Bedford, Charlotte, Greenville and Lester, the material is processed further by others and care must be exercised by the processor.

BUILDINGS

Asbestos is used as an insulating material in many Westinghouse buildings. Althouth there are no laws or regulations which prohibit such use, there are regulations which govern disposal of the material.

All of our facilities have repeatedly been informed that care must be taken during repairs, renovations and demolitions to ensure that contractors are informed about the possible presence of asbestos, that workers are fully protected and that the material is properly disposed of. Both Corporate Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Control provide consulting services in these areas.

As part of our reviews of acquired or divested facilities, we review the condition of asbestos insulation. For example, we required the removal of certain deteriorating asbestos at Newark. In the case of the Westinghouse Building acquisition, we investigated the asbestos situation and provided Real Estate with options and cost estimates for dealing with asbestos in the event of major renovations that might impact significantly on the insulation or in the event that regulations might ultimately be adopted requiring removal or encapsulation.

Discard Date

EMPLOYE HEALTH

Material Safety Data Sheets, which describe precautions to be taken with asbestos, are available at all Westinghouse facilities. Plants using asbestos mixtures have been monitored. In the few cases where air monitoring indicated an asbestos level above the permissible level, Corporate Industrial Hygiene worked with the plant to reduce the levels.

Industrial Hygiene has monitored major renovations in the Westinghouse Building, including the present one on the twenty-third floor. All readings were well within OSHA limits in the immediate construction area. Readings outside the construction area were approximately two orders of magnitude below the OSHA limit.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

As I have stated, there are no present regulations that require us to remove or encapsulate asbestos in our facilities. There has been talk, however, that public buildings (not yet defined) may eventually be regulated in the same manner as schools. It is likely that regulations will be issued which will lower the permissible limits for air concentrations. A proposed rule to this effect was withdrawn but with the intention of incorporating it into a broader revision of the regulations.

We are following these developments regularly and keep our facilities informed of proposed and actual changes.

Frank S. Beal, Director
Environmental Affairs

FSB/mj

Attachment

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT USE
1979-1981

Location	(W) Product or Use	Average Annual End Product (1979-81)	Average Annual Consumption of Asbestos Mixtures (1979-81)
Bedford, PA	High grade electrical paper for motor insulation	137,333 lbs. paper	83, 224 lbs.
Buffalo, NY	Asbestos rope for electrical motors.	92 motors	15 lbs.
Charlotte, NC	Sheet gasketing	14.5 sq. yards gasketing	14.5 square yards
Coral Springs, FL	Asbestos paper in protective relays	1,000 relays	73.3 square yards
East Pittsburgh, PA **	Millboard for switch board	300 switchboards	2,418 tons
Greenville, PA	High grade electrical paper for wire insulation	2,200 tons of wire	13.7 tons
Horseheads, NY	Asbestos cloth for nuclear penetration	1 unit	0.2 square yards
Jefferson City, MO	Epoxy resin containing asbestos for transformers	2,463 transformers	23.7 gallons
Orrville, OH	Asbestos gasket sheet for oxygen sensor	330 units (1981 only)	10.9 square yards (1981 only)
Philadelphia (Lester), PA	Asbestos sheets for ring gasket	625 ring gaskets	540 square yards
Raleigh, NC *	Granular filler for electrical conductor supports	50,000 units	12,450 lbs.

Location	(W) Product or Use	Average Annual End Product (1979-81)	Average Annual Consumption of Asbestos Mixtures (1979-81)
Sykesville, MD **	Adhesive paste for ultrasonic cleaning equipment	732 units	33 gallons
	Sheet insulation for induction heating equipment	256 units	5,949 square feet
	Electric cable for induction heating equipment	64 units	3,300 feet
	Electric cable for welding power supply and induction heating equipment	4,024 units	3.91 tons
Sunnyvale, CA	Garlock 7228 gaskets for propulsion gaskets	not listed	500 square feet

* Raleigh discontinued use of asbestos mixtures in 1981.

** Sykesville has decreased use of asbestos mixtures by 10-50 per cent, depending on product, since 1981.

*** East Pittsburgh no longer uses asbestos mixtures.