

73-11-80



Shell Oil Company

Interoffice Memorandum

FEBRUARY 28, 1980

SHELL OIL COMPANY			
Division of Industrial Hygiene			
Western Region			
R/D		NO	
RYM		ER	
		IDL	
MAR 3 1980			
INFO ☒ DISCUSS ☐ HANDLE ☐ X			
FILE			

FROM: JOHN P. MURPHY, INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE TECHNICIAN,
HS&E/S&IH - EASTERN REGION

TO: MR. H. J. MC DERMOTT, MANAGER INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SERVICE
HS&E/S&IH - HEAD OFFICE

SUBJECT: USE OF INSULATION MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS BY
SOUTHERN E&P FACILITIES

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

SH-3372

I have been reviewing with V. A. Harris, Safety and Environmental Conservation Manager - Coastal Division, the use, handling, potential employee exposure and substitution of asbestos insulation materials in the Coastal Division of Southern E&P Region. This was stimulated by the discovery of asbestos packing material in use at West Lake Verret in a compressor engine exhaust manifold.

The packing is a $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " continuous length of material which is very pliable, feels waxy, and is comprised of about 80 percent asbestos. The packing is installed in a stuffing box similar to that found on a centrifugal pump and forms an expansion joint in the exhaust manifold. Packing is replaced when leakage is detected and this occurs about every year. There are eight or nine such engines in Coastal Division. The engineering staff for Coastal Division is currently looking for a suitable non-asbestos substitution for this packing material. Coastal Division's general policy is to treat all insulation removed from equipment as if it contained asbestos.

I will be visiting many of the Coastal and Onshore Division facilities in the next month to conduct a survey on the potential exposure to mercury. While at these locations, I will also review the insulating materials in stock and its use and condition on equipment.

JPM:BWD

cc - Dr. C. E. Ross, Corporate Medical, Head Office
Mr. O. J. Shirley, SEC, Southern E&P Region
Mr. V. A. Harris, Coastal Division SEC, Southern E&P Region

~~bcc~~ - Mr. R. K. Jones, HS&E/S&IH, Western Region

LAM 023541

ABS-002612