FILE NAME: Shell (SHEL)

DATE: 1972 Oct 20

DOC#: SHEL017

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Meeting Minutes - NICA Task Force on OSHA - Johns-Manville Corp.

AL 10421 2025

NICA TASK FORCE ON OSHA
Denver, Colorado
Johns-Manville Corp.
October 20, 1972

The NICA Committee on OSHA met in Denver on October 20, 1972 with key personnel of the Shell Oil Company headquartered in Houston, Texas. The following attended the meeting:

Committee Members
R. A. Stapleton - Johns-Manville
Don Bradshaw - Owens-Corning
J. S. Royer - Young Sales Corp.

Johns-Manville
C. W. Watson, Contract Manager
W. B. Reitze, Manager Accident Prevention & Industrial Health
F. J. Solon, Vice President Corporate Relations
Edmund M. Fenner, Director Environmental Control

Shell Oil Co.
W. C. Bluhm, Hdq. Eng. - Refineries
R. B. Howard, Hdq. Eng. - Chemical Plants
Gayden Derickson, Mgr. Contractor Relations
D. P. Atwood, Regional Industrial Hygienist

Tabershaw-Cooper Asso.
Dr. J. R. Tabershaw

Through the graciousness of Johns-Manville, the meeting was held in the Corporate Board Room. A beautiful and enjoyable lunch was served by the staff which administers to the needs and requirements of the top executives of Johns-Manville. We all appreciated Dick Stapleton making this possible.

After a general discussion of the problems which will be encountered in complying with the new OSHA regulation on asbestos, the Chairman asked Shell if they would give the others present the benefit of their studies to date.

Mr. Bluhm acted as spokesman and using the data they had obtained from monitoring processes at their refineries in Wood River and at their Norco Refinery, he outlined their results. They included installation, removal, clean up and fabrication. He asked that these not be published since they still intend to perform additional tests in their refineries as well as in their chemical plants.

The amazing thing about the report was that in monitoring all the different operations necessary to fabricate and install asbestos containing pipe covering and/or blocks, the highest fiber count which they accomplished was 4.53 fibers per milliliter.

Readings were taken upwind and downwind from the operations, as well as on the person of the applicators. The readings in the shop were taken with proper dust removal equipment on the saws.

In some cases, they tried wetting down old materials before removal and in others, they did not. This did not seem to make a material difference.

Bill Reitze, who spent 18 months with Dr. Selicoff at Mt. Sinai and who made most of the monitoring tests for him, was asked if these readings concurred with those that he was familiar with and, in most instances, he agreed.

Ed Fenner, who is in charge of Environmental Control for Johns-Manville and who supervises the taking of fiber readings in the plants as well as on jobs, also concurred in most instances.

All parties who are expert in this field then began discussing the credibility of the filter list as it is now made. The statement finally was made that it can be as much as 300% inaccurate. This certainly shook the members of the Committee.

A discussion was then had of when asbestos free materials will be available. It was the concensus of the manufacturers present that they would be in full supply by the end of 1973.

Mr. Derickson of Shell asked for a few minutes to review Shell's outlook as far as OSHA is concerned and what they are doing to comply. They are very much concerned that NICA will put out recommendations to their contractors that will be at variance with their instructions and detrimental to the relations between Shell and their plant employees. They emphasized that they have insulators in their plants on their payroll at all times and that they hoped we would agree on the same recommendations to our people as they give to their employees because they also hire independent contractors.

The "thrust" of the whole meeting was that Shell believed that they can keep the fiber count under five (5) and, therefore, interpret the law to say that it will not be necessary for them to provide special lockers, clothing, powered air respirators, etc.

The meeting with Shell adjourned at 2:15 p.m. and the Committee met with Dr. Tabershaw and Bill Reitze and Ed Tonner. This discussion was to summarize what we had gotten from Sh[illegible] and to see if we could agree to relate it to NICA. No final conclusion was reached.

The Committee then met with Dr. Tabershaw alone to see what could be done to get our health program started in time to comply with the OSHA regulations.

Dr. Tabershaw recommended that we ask for a variance to delay the enforcement of the law as far as the monitoring process is concerned. It is his belief that the cost to individual contractors will be prohibitive and that the present methods of arriving at the fiber count are inadequate and inaccurate.

He believes that we must institute job practices that will effect a lowering of the fiber concentration to a level acceptable to OSHA. In other words, he recommends getting at the source of the problem rather than trying to prove a negative count of fibers.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

J. S. Royer

JSR:gc

cc Stapleton
Bradshaw
Brown
Bayer
Yount
Munsey
Murfin
Pfister
Dr. Tabershaw
Pollock
Sartori