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TO: Safety Directors

FROM: T. G. Grumbles

DATE: July 2, 1987

Interoffice
Communication

SUBJ: BNA OSHA REPORTER

VISTA

I currently review the OSHA Reporter on a weekly basis and send articles that appear to be of interest and impact Vista operations to you. That decision is "one man's opinion".

In the future we'll leave the decision of what's interesting to you. I'll be sending the cover page, which gives a brief description of the contents, to you on a weekly basis. If you see something you'd like further details on, call me or Jackie O'Connell at X3451 and she'll copy the article for you. This practice was suggested by Keith Fogg, and I believe it will be helpful to all.

I'll continue to send what I think is important.



T. G. Grumbles

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Attachment

cc WLM

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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH REPORTER

A weekly review of occupational safety and health developments

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THE BUREAU OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, INC.

June 17, 1987

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT REPORT

THE LATEST DRAFT PROPOSAL to expand the hazard communication standard hangs in limbo as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the departments of Labor and Justice debate the options open to them in the face of a May 29 court order to simply expand the existing rule by July. The latest draft describes in detail the changes OSHA wants to make in the standard based on its experience with the current rule (p. 83; text, p. 108).

A BNA SPECIAL REPORT on reproductive hazards finds that the spread of new technologies and a growing increase in the number of women in the work force create new concern about hazards to pregnant workers at a time when little is really known about such risks and few government regulations exist (p. 97).

OSHA MANAGEMENT CHANGES recommended in a consultants' report are endorsed by the Administrative Conference of the United States despite a plea by the safety agency and the Labor Department to postpone a decision (p. 83).

WORKER RISK NOTIFICATION BILLS currently pending in Congress are feasible, consistent with existing law, and do not duplicate existing federal standards, a General Accounting Office report finds (p. 84) . . . The sponsor of one bill defends his measure at a hearing by the Senate Small Business Committee (p. 85).

THE PLANNED RESUMPTION of concurrent federal safety and health jurisdiction in California was expected but not applauded by the AFL-CIO, which still hopes that funding for the state program will be included in a final state budget this summer, a labor official says (p. 85).

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY RULES contained in a proposal now "back on schedule" at OSHA would require employers to get a permit before assigning workers to enter most confined spaces (p. 86).

CANCER HAZARDS TO HAIRDRESSERS from methylene chloride are alleged by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in a petition calling on Labor Secretary William E. Brock to immediately extend the hazard communication standard (p. 87).

RECORDKEEPING BY IBP INC. should be examined by the Nebraska attorney general's office to determine if the meatpacking company is in criminal violation of workers' compensation laws, the food workers union says. In a related matter, OSHA says it will investigate records at a second IBP facility (p. 87).

OSHA INSPECTION RECORDS reflecting the identities and statements of employee witnesses, the compliance officer's notes, and correspondence between regional OSHA and solicitor's office personnel are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, a federal court rules (p. 88).

POWER PRESS AMPUTATIONS are still occurring with "alarming frequency," the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says in urging further steps to protect workers (p. 89).

CLOSING ARGUMENTS ARE MADE in Manville Corp.'s suit in U.S. Claims Court against the federal government over asbestos claims paid out to World War II shipyard workers (p. 89).

EXCAVATION STANDARD CHANGES proposed in April will remain open for public comment for another four months (p. 90).

MARKETPLACE INCENTIVES are a stronger force for promoting workplace safety than government regulation, an economist with the White House Council of Economic Advisers says (p. 90).

UNIFORM WHISTLEBLOWER LAWS are recommended by the Administrative Conference to protect persons who fear their employers will retaliate against them for complaining about safety hazards (p. 90).

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