Blok Press and Preform areas continue to display excessive fiber levels which are in definite need of control. Blok Preform revealed concentrations which exceed both permissible eight hour time weighted average limits and one time peak excursion limits. Improved exhaust ventilation is planned for the three blok preform units, and priority should be given to the installation of these systems. Full enclosure of the presses, weigh scales, and mix buggies is required as opposed to point source collection to insure capture of all airborne materials. The existing lateral slot hoods are of the point source capture type, and as such, are not providing adequate control at the preformers. Their deficient performance can be observed at the back and sides of the preformers where fibers are being released to the ambient air. The heavy accumulations of asbestos fibers on the floor surrounding the machines are also indicative of inadequate collection, in conjunction with careless work habits on the part of the operators.

At Blok Press, there are essentially two sources of exposure which require control. The preformed bloks which arrive at Blok Press on the tiered racks are coated with fine dust containing both asbestos fibers and lead compounds. Any amount of disturbance or handling, such as transfer to the press platform, results in airborne dispersion of the dust. A vacuum system or exhausted blow-off enclosure should be provided to clean the preformed bloks prior to transfer to Blok Press. If possible, such a blow-off or vacuum device should be incorporated into the blok preform enclosures to include protection of these operators. The second source of exposure at Blok Press occurs on the vertical lift when the operator applies the graphite lubricant with the spray gun. This not only disperses asbestos fibers into the operator's breathing zone, but graphite-surfactant aerosols as well. This latter material accounts for a majority of the undesirable, dirty aspects of this operation. To collect both contaminants, side slot hoods connected to modified, flexible travel-vents should be installed on the edge of the press platforms across from the operators' positions. The hoods should include tapered plenums and three rows of slots with velocity in excess of 2,000 fpm at the lowest slot. (Refer to Fig. 4-13 for suggested design.)

Other areas requiring improved or additional exhaust ventilation are listed in the "Recommendations" section of the report. Several locations include stand grinders, saws, and drills in