TO BE USED BY SUPERVISION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND TO COVER THOSE WHO WORK WITH SPINNING BLOCK PORTABLE INSULATION

Coverage of affected employees to begin at 0800, Friday, 2/29/80.

cc: R. L. Rhodes, Wilm.

Kinston, North Carolina
February 27, 1980

H. A. KRESS
J. H. MOORE

A. S. GRIFFITH
J. G. PLASKY

L. E. HOUCK
T. J. DICKERSON (3)
R. L. DRACH (9)
C. P. FORD, JR.
E. A. HASELEY
J. A. LaMOTTE
H. G. WADDELL

J. P. PRETTYMAN
J. F. BAKER, JR. (5)
A. L. BLANCETT
R. J. COLLINS
R. J. HARGITT (5)
W. B. JOHNSON
J. A. TALLMAN
C. B. WASHBURN

R. A. ELMER
B. W. ECKES
H. M. GENTRY
C. I. HUBER
A. H. ROEDE (4)
J. W. THOMPSON (5)
J. W. WILSON (2)

L. E. GLASS
C. T. BABINGTON (5)
K. HANSLEY
W. A. HEATH (6)
J. C. LYTLE (4)
W. M. MAHONEY (5)

F. W. GASKILL, JR.
J. M. CARPENTER (15)
C. O. FIVEASH
J. A. HENDERSON (5)
S. A. SEWALL

J. L. COOPER
R. E. CHERRY (3)
H. B. GRIFFIN
T. M. ROSS
J. G. KELLY

H. R. BILLICA
R. W. MESCHKE
R. B. VAN VELD

W. BRUCE
B. F. ADAMS (6)
J. B. COWART (5)
C. E. REESE

R. J. PHILLIPS
W. A. CHANTRY
T. E. HARMON
B. C. HOOKWAY
H. LEIGHTY
C. B. MAHONEY
B. A. SHIFFLER

T. J. COLVEN
W. G. BRANSCOME (4)
E. S. LEIDHEISER (4)
W. S. McMAHON

S. C. WINCHESTER (2)
B. GINTIS
T. W. LUNNEY (6)
P. B. SARGEANT (5)

SPINNING BLOCK INSULATION

AIRBORNE ASBESTOS MONITORING

The ongoing Plant program of monitoring all airborne contaminants in the work place indicates a potential problem when handling spinning block portable insulation containing asbestos. Recent breathing air samples were taken during a simulated start-up situation where multiple spinning machines were checked during a short period of time for possible pump leaks. Personal air sampling devices indicated that the employees removing the insulation to make these checks in the ETF Yarn and Staple Areas may have been exposed for a short period of time to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers above the OSHA ceiling limit. As required by OSHA regulations, the three involved employees have been so notified.

Similar short-term sampling in the Industrial Area, as well as all eight-hour sampling in the Staple and DTFY Spinning Areas indicate airborne concentrations of asbestos to be well within OSHA limits.

Additional sampling will be performed to determine what procedural changes or insulation modifications will be required. The Plant objective is to eliminate the use of asbestos or to modify the portable units to insure that the airborne concentration of asbestos is within acceptable limits. In the meantime, all spinning areas will take the extra precaution of requiring respirators when handling portable insulation containing asbestos until airborne sampling verifies that this protection is not needed.

DUP 0905784

Asbestos is classified by OSHA as a human carcinogen. No new asbestos insulation has been used on the Kinston site since 1973, except in a "bound" state in gaskets, brake linings and insulation "A" cloth. Prior to 1973 it was used extensively as insulation on pipes and vessels. As the old asbestos insulation is removed and discarded, it is being replaced by a non-asbestos type. Current Works Engineering procedures for removal and disposal of this old insulation provides adequate protection against exposure.

Questions and answers are attached to assist supervision in answering specific questions.

T. J. DICKERSON
SAFETY, HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
SUPERVISOR

TJD/mts
Attachment

DUP 0905785

Ed

ANSWERS TO POSSIBLE QUESTIONS REGARDING ASBESTOS EXPOSURE TO SPINNING OPERATORS

Q - How serious is this exposure to asbestos?

A - We consider any exposure above the OSHA limit as serious. An accurate assessment as to how significant this specific exposure is cannot be made short-term. Usually, several years of exposure (4 to 7, per toxicity literature) are required before any serious effect is noted. Prolonged inhalation can result in asbestosis, and if this exposure continues, cancer can develop in some people. Thus, we believe the probability of any effect from this exposure is extremely remote.

People who have had a known significant exposure to asbestos on the Plant will be included in the Plant special medical surveillance program. Plant Carpenters and Insulators are currently in this surveillance program. If further explanation is desired, we can arrange an appointment for you with a Plant doctor.

Q - What should I do?

A - As in any exposure, you should minimize contact with asbestos products both here and off the job. Asbestos is very prevalent in public buildings, home roofings and sidings, floor tile, toasters, ironing board covers, stove pot holders, vehicle brake linings, etc. On the job, it is important to know and follow standard procedures which will protect you from job hazards. If, for example, a respirator is specified, be sure to wear it properly in all designated situations.

Q - What are the limits for asbestos in air?

A - The 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) airborne concentration of asbestos fibers to which an employee may be exposed, by OSHA regulation, shall not exceed 2 fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air.

The ceiling concentration of asbestos fibers an employee may be exposed to under the same regulation is 10 fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air. The ceiling sample result is based on a 15 minute time weighted average exposure.

Q - How did this exposure happen?

A - The potential for exposure on this particular test, which was a simulated worst case situation, was not recognized. In this case, more machines were checked in a much shorter period of time than normal. The age of the insulation on the machines being checked was a contributing factor.

Q - What will be done to prevent recurrence?

A - All spinning areas will take the extra precaution of requiring respirators when handling portable insulation containing asbestos until airborne sampling verifies that this protection is not needed. Several alternatives are under study in Works Engineering to correct the problem, including a substitute for asbestos.

DUP 0905786

FIX

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (CONTD.)

Q - There are a lot of employees on the plant who may believe they have been exposed to asbestos for years. Can they be included in the Medical surveillance program if they so desire?

A - Yes, providing there is sufficient indication of potential exposure.

Q - In air sample results, what effect does imbedded polymer dust in old insulation have on the asbestos sample results?

A - None. Polymer dust would have no effect on the asbestos result.

Q - Why are we more concerned over this item now than say 20 years ago?

A - Because we know more about the long-term effects, not only of asbestos but other airborne substances. OSHA began to recognize exposure to asbestos in the early 1970's and implemented stringent controls. The Du Pont Company also recognized the problem and began its monitoring program at the same time. Our monitoring program for the exposure of substances found in the workplace was expanded under the Textile Fibers Health Policy.

Q - What does the medical surveillance test consist of?

A - It includes the regular physical, a chest X-ray, history of respiratory diseases and a pulmonary functional test (forced vital capacity and forced expiratory volume).

TJD/mts