



TO: Bill Bauman

FROM: Tom Ballou, Jr.

DATE: April 16, 1991

COPIES: A. Boatman, T. Dunn

SUBJECT: Asbestos Exposure Incident

On Tuesday, April 7, Two carpenters were sent to remove the refractory brick from a heat-treating oven at the machine shop. After commencing work, they discovered fibrous insulation behind the refractory. Contrary to their standing instructions, they did not request an asbestos evaluation of the insulation material prior to preceding. One of the carpenters examined the material and decided that a normal laboratory ttest was unnecessary, that the material "did not look like Asbestos". They did not inform their supervisor. At the end of the shift, the supervisor noticed traces of the insulation on their clothing and in their hair and requested a test. A sample was immediately recovered and tested by Northwest Envirocon. The sample indicated the material was 40% asbestos. The men's clothing was returned to the plant for disposal.

An emergency contract was let that evening for cleanup of the machine shop area around the oven and the area was secured. The abatement work, including the demolition of the refractory is being carried out by an abatement contractor. The carpenters have been re-instructed on proper procedures upon the discovery of untested insulation.

Tom Ballou, Jr.

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