

Dept. of Medicine &amp; Environmental Health

J. L. Henshaw - C247

March 19, 1984

J. T. Garrett

SUBJECT Asbestos Identification and  
Elimination Program

REFERENCE

TO J. Schroy - CS7H

The issue of asbestos distribution and use within Monsanto was discussed recently with the Director of Environmental Operations. At that time we proposed the program which over some time frame would help identify and eliminate asbestos distribution and use throughout Monsanto. You may be aware that Jack Garrett had brought the issue up last fall to Tom Laferre and Jim Senger, and at that time he expressed the degree of urgency this issue justifies.

The Directors of Environmental Operations are in full support of a program for the identification and elimination of asbestos materials within our workplaces. However, it has become evident that many of our locations are not aware of substitute materials which could be used to replace materials which currently contain asbestos. A great deal of data has been generated recently which demonstrates that there are substitutes for asbestos containing materials such as gaskets. However, test data and other resource information have been scattered and alludes to many of our plants and CED engineers.

On behalf of the Industrial Hygiene Section and the Directors of Environmental Operations, could you give us: determine those applications where we still use asbestos-containing materials; gather data, either from our locations or from other industries where non-asbestos containing materials have been successfully used; evaluate those data in respect to applicability and cost-effectiveness; and disseminate the new data, your evaluation of the data and information as to where possible substitutes can be contained through your "Workplace Exposure Control Guidelines" document.

This aspect of the program we are asking you to perform is very crucial. We expect plant identification, evaluation and elimination program which will span over several years. As the plants identify asbestos containing material and make plans to eliminate those materials, viable substitutes must be recognized and available to each location.

This is where your resources document comes in. If you have any questions please give me a call. Jerry, your contribution to this effort is very crucial. The lack of identified substitutes for asbestos containing materials has been a major stumbling block over the years in respect to eliminating asbestos use within Monsanto.

  
John L. Henshaw

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