

DOW CHEMICAL U.S.A.
Materials Technology

CONSULTATION REPORT NO. 7-0050-86

TO: Dave Barnett Group: Insulation/Fireproofing Services
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Title: Economic Evaluation of Asbestos Removal From Steam Lines

CONSULTATION REPORT NO. 7-0019-86 was a study of the Economic Thickness of Insulation to be replaced on existing steamlines in view of the reduced steam costs from co-generated steam. The recommendation of that report was to leave the asbestos insulation in place and re-jacket with aluminum over the existing asbestos felt.

This CONSULTATION REPORT deals with the costs of removal of the asbestos insulation and replacement with new. Much of the existing asbestos insulation has already been re-jacketed in Plant A and a significant amount in Plant B. Estimated cost of re-jacketing the remaining asbestos insulation is \$1,000,000.

The results of the study indicate the following;

1. The least expensive and the recommended alternative is to re-jacket the existing insulation. To obtain the current heat loss would require an expenditure of approximately \$5,000,000 additional. ETI thicknesses could be applied for \$3,800,000 additional but would give no protection against rising steam prices.
2. The second alternative is to wait as long as possible except where projected stripping costs exceed approximately 2.5 times the current cost. Meeting the proposed regulation of 0.1 fibers/cc will be more a matter of shielding the surrounding area from fibers rather than the worker. This will require more materials and equipment. Worker time should increase by the time it takes to enter and exit the area.

At present, the EPA attitude appears to be removal of asbestos by attrition rather than dictating removal. Any decision by the EPA to dictate removal could be tied up in court for a long time because of the expense.

Intangibles such as the potential cost of lawsuits by Pipefitters, Painters, and Insulators who routinely work in pipeways and any "Good Will" obtained by Dow from it's employees by a policy of removing asbestos now are decisions to be made by Upper Management. The question has already risen as to why Texas Operations has the money to spread rock but doesn't have the money to remove asbestos.

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Enclosures

*Summary page, Economic Analysis for
installing specification thicknesses and
475" system specification thicknesses were
corrected 6/17/86. The basic recommendations
did not change. Corrected pages were not
forwarded. MCT 6/17/86*

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