

FILE NAME: Westinghouse (WH)

DATE: 1973 May 7

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE Asbestos Samples

BATH WORKS
Industrial Relations Dept.

T. J. Katner, Safety Supvr.

East Pittsburgh 2-G-1

May 7, 1973

cc: Bloomfield Works - Accident Prevention - R. T. Williams, Div. Admin.

Headquarters Industrial Hygiene received eight air samples from you on April 30, 1973. The sample identification sheets indicated that three locations were sampled for three different contaminants. This letter will confirm the results communicated to you by telephone.

Asbestos Samples - (Sample Nos. 4412-4415)

Four samples were received and were identified by you as being taken during milling, drilling, and sawing operations on a transite material called Marinite from the Johns Manville Company which consists mainly of asbestos, cement, etc. All four samples were grossly over-loaded, and quantitative evaluation was not attempted. A sector of the filters was excised, and a morphologic examination of the residue was made by phase contrast microscopy. This test confirmed gross asbestos contamination. Your statement that a non-asbestos substitute material was scheduled for test was good to hear. We hope the test is successful. If it is not, we strongly agree with your commitment to "farming out" the work. As mentioned during our conversation, we emphatically encourage an all-out clean-up effort of this area using the methods discussed.

Quartz Samples - (Sample Nos. 4406-4407)

The two samples designated by you as being taken at the laser quartz cutting station were weighed as 99% crystalline silica. When related to the volume of air sampled, the results were 0.44 and 0.61 milligrams of quartz per cubic meter of air (mg/M^3) respectively. The threshold limit value (TLV) for quartz dust set by Federal regulations for an eight-hour time weighted average (TWA) exposure is $0.3 \text{ mg}/\text{M}^3$. For this reason, we strongly endorse your efforts to have the ventilation system improved to capture all of the dust.

IN RE: ABRAMS

DECEMBER 1992



T. J. Katner

- 2 -

May 7, 1973

Vanadium Pentoxide Samples - (Sample Nos. 4410-4411)

The two samples identified by you as vanadium pentoxide (V_2O_5) dust were also weighed as such. When related to the air volumes you submitted, both results were $0.44 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$. Although this value is indeed marginally below the TLV for an eight-hour TWA of $0.5 \text{ mg } V_2O_5/\text{m}^3$, we agree with your intention to recommend additional enclosures around the dust source.

We hope these air sample results will aid your efforts to convince your management to follow through on the recommendations discussed above.

John F. Adams
Headquarters Industrial Hygiene

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502
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DECEMBER 1992