



Inter Office

Personnel and Organization Staff

November 13, 1981

Mr. J. E. Fisher
Standards Coordinator
Manufacturing Staff

cc E. S. Wargo
M. S. Lechner, M.D.

Subject: Manufacturing Staff - Industrial Hygiene Audit - Rouge Powerhouse

Pertaining to your Manufacturing Staff audit, the analytic results of bulk samples collected on November 3, 1981 during our walk-through of the Rouge Powerhouse are completed. A screening procedure was used which tests non-specifically for asbestos by analyzing for magnesium, a component of chrysotile, or for iron, a component of amosite and crocidolite, common forms of asbestos. A positive result using this test is presumed to be asbestos. However, conclusive results come from other more exhaustive analyses such as X-ray diffraction or polarized light microscopy which are performed by outside consultants.

From our sampling, two out of the seven samples collected were "presumptive-positive" for the presence of asbestos. These samples, found on the second and third floors, were from exposed pipe and boiler insulation. None of the open bags of materials we found contained asbestos.

As insulation, in its present form, this material does not pose a significant inhalation hazard to employees working in the area unless there is actual cutting or ripping of the material as would typically occur during maintenance activities. As with any work performed on insulation suspected of containing asbestos, proper precautions should be taken. These precautions include:

- . Wearing impervious, disposable clothing
- . Wearing Corporate-approved respirators
- . Special changing and decontamination areas
- . Proper housekeeping and maintenance procedures such as wet methods and vacuum cleaning
- . Visible caution signs and labels
- . Proper disposal methods such as collecting waste materials in impermeable, clearly labeled bags
- . Medical surveillance of employees exposed above 0.1 fiber/cc.

Based on the above discussion, a routine monitoring program is unwarranted; however, during maintenance activities involving insulation removal, this section should be contacted to perform the necessary sampling to quantify employee exposures as required by law (29 CFR 1910.1001).

If you feel additional confirmation is necessary for the two "positive" samples or if there are any questions, please contact the writer on 33-78955.

Alan R. Amberg
Alan R. Amberg, Industrial Hygienist
Industrial Hygiene & Toxicology Department
Employee Health Services

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