

ARCO Metals Company

Internal Correspondence

A. Johnson

Date: May 28, 1985

Subject: Allegation Forms--Carpenter Exposure to Asbestos

From/Location: Clifford Kracher/Columbia Falls

To/Location: Gene Holt/Los Angeles

In regard to the recent 8-C allegations by carpenters that they were exposed to asbestos on certain jobs during a period back to 1957, it should be noted that there was no formal program for respiratory protection until 1976. Although respirators were furnished to the work force in the more recent years preceeding a formalized "required protection" program, it is uncertain what protection was available in 1957.

Monitoring asbestos exposure levels was first started in the plant in 1973. Because non-asbestos substitutes were being researched and brought into the plant this same year, there is only limited data on many of the jobs. Along with substitute materials, procedures for handling asbestos, protective clothing and respiratory protection were also being provided and recommended at this time for jobs handling asbestos.

The "exposure" jobs referred to in the allegations, mainly, cutting and installing of asbestos millboard and pipe, were reduced in this same year by purchasing such materials pre-cut and drilled by the outside vendor.

Hope this brief clarification will be of some help in evaluating the recordable or non-recordable status.

Clifford J. Kracher

Clifford J. Kracher
Industrial Hygiene Supervisor

CJK:kg

mc: Industrial Hygiene Committee

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