FILE NAME: Scotts (SCTS)

DATE: 1976 Jan 16

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo to Chem Plant Associates RE Existing Trace Amounts of Asbestos in Vermiculite

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
SCO-35

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Scotts

To: CHEM PLANT ASSOCIATES
cc:

From: Maury Decoster

Subject:

Date: January 16, 1976

Very small trace amounts of asbestos exist in the vermiculite ore used in our Trionized Process. Standards have been set by the federal government limiting the exposure to asbestos in any work environment. Ongoing testing by Scotts has shown that the levels of asbestos found in our plant are well within levels which the government has established as acceptable.

New regulations are now being proposed by the federal government to further lower the acceptable levels of asbestos exposure. It is our intent to meet and go beyond these new requirements proposed and generally to keep our levels of asbestos at the lowest possible amount. While only very large exposures to asbestos over long periods of many years have been medically linked to a scarring of the lungs called asbestosis and to certain types of cancer, it is only common sense for each of us to do everything in our power to reduce to the lowest possible level the asbestos exposures in our plant.

Even though our testing of the air has indicated that no health problems for any Scott associates were presented by the levels of asbestos found in our facilities, I am asking for the full cooperation of each Scott associate to see to it that major improvements are made in keeping the plant clean and dust-free.

I don't feel that it is enough that we just comply with the federal laws or regulations. Scotts must do more than that. Below I have set forth just a few of the first steps in what must become a crusade to clean up our plant and further improve the work environment for our associates:

1. A general plant clean-up of the Trionized Plant will be held on January 24-25. General clean-ups of all other plant areas will be scheduled as soon thereafter as possible.

2. Continuous monitoring and inspections of all plant areas will be frequently scheduled in the future.

3. All associates working in the Chemical Plant will be be given chest X-rays and a medical examination on company time within the next six weeks. Thereafter, such examinations will be repeated annually.

Supervisors have already contacted all associates working in areas where extremely small amounts of asbestos may be found. If you have not been contacted, none has been found in your work area, and this notice does not directly affect you.

However, we all have a responsibility to see to it that our working conditions are clean and safe.

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