IN RE: ABRAMS November 1993

NWBB-0032542

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Historical Background

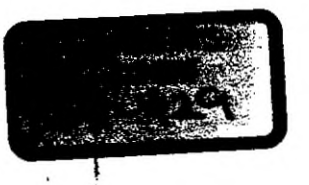
Westinghouse was a pioneer in the field on Industrial Hygiene with the history of the department going back to the early 1930's.

The initial effort was evaluating and controlling employe exposure to silica particulate in the foundry operations. Efforts were then directed toward developing a system of evaluating the chemicals and materials used in the Westinghouse manufacturing processes to determine the potential employe health hazards and determining what controls, precautions and protective clothing was necessary to minimize the hazards. This system was then integrated into a Westinghouse Corporate Standards Product Specification/Material (PDS/M) Card System as a means of communicating this information to the Westinghouse plant.

Once the hazardous materials were identified, then Safe Practice Data Sheets (SPDS) were developed and prepared. SPDS included the phyhsical properties, the Westinghouse material numbers, which contained this hazardous material, the hazards, fire information, first aid information, and how to safely handle and control the material.

Until 1970 there was limited personnel monitoring of employe exposure to toxic substances at the Westinghouse plants, with the exception being the monitoring of employe radiation exposure. If the Corporate Industrial Hygiene Department was involved in what monitoring was performed, these records were well maintained. However, maintenance of such historical records at the Westinghouse plants varies from excellent to non-existent. Medical surveillance, e.g. audiometric exams, periodic physicals, bioassay samples, was much more relevent including the maintenance of such records.

When the Occupational Safety and Health Act came into being in 1971, more emphasis was placed on employe exposure to toxic materials. Industrial Hygiene Training Courses were developed and offered for the plant industrial hygiene and safety representatives. Additional monitoring equipment was



purchased and made available to the Westinghouse plants. Therefore, documentation of employe exposures to toxic materials or physical agents increased such that there has been more personnel monitoring of employe exposure in the last 5 years than there was in the previous 40 years.

The format of the Westinghouse SPDS was revised to reflect the changes in the OSHA Occupation Health Standards, e.g. personnel monitoring requirements, permissible exposure limits and employe training requirements concerning the potential health hazards of toxic materials.

Plant audits were established to review the Westinghouse plant Industrial Hygiene and Safety Programs with a written report issued to the plant discussing the findings and recommendations.

1/29/82

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