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Subject: Asbestos Survey

In response to C J Thomas's letter dated September 18, 1972, the following information is submitted.

On October 5, 1972, an industrial hygiene survey was conducted at the asbestos operation at GAC to determine the airborne concentration of asbestos fibers. A Unico Telmatic Air Sampler 150 was used to collect the air samples. Samples were collected in a midget impinger containing 10 ml of distilled water. All determination of airborne concentrations were made at 400 x (magnification) (4 millimeter objective) with phase contrast illumination. (Note - This is not an approved method of measurement. Measurement should be done by the membrane filter method. At the time of the survey the correct membrane filters were not available. The midget impinger method will give a good idea of the airborne concentration of asbestos. The finding may be low compared to the filter method).

The 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) airborne concentration of asbestos fibers set by the Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA) to which any employees may be exposed shall not exceed five (5) fiber, larger than 5 micrometers per cubic centimeter of air (5 fiber/cc, 5 μ in length) with a ceiling level of 10 fiber/cc, 5 μ in length.

The results of the survey are listed below.

	LOCATION	fiber/cc > 5 μ in length
1.	Beside fan on fluffer platform	1.6
2.	Aisle by fluffer	5.1
3.	Shoveling asbestos from bin	18.5
4.	Unloading the dry mixer	27.5
5.	At the #5 press preformer	7.0
6.	Mill operator in mill room	5.8

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2. Personal Protective Equipment During the time period necessary to install the engineering controls employees working in the following areas should be required to wear a Bureau of Mines approved respirator.

A. Fluffer area
B. Preform press area
C. Disc sander area
D. Small weighing room
E. Mixer and blender area
F. Mill operator

3. Establishment of a Respirator Program A respiratory protection program should be established. (See Medical-Industrial Hygiene Manual - Respiratory Protection Program).

4. Special Clothing Special clothing such as coveralls or similar whole body clothing, head coverings, gloves, and foot coverings should be provided and be required to wear for the employees who are exposed to above 10 fiber/cc > 5 μ in length.

5. Change Rooms A change room should be provided for each employee with two (2) separate lockers or containers so separate as to prevent contamination of the employees street clothes from his work clothes.

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Asbestos fibers were found in the following ledge samples:

1. On the hood over the fluffer.
2. Inside of respirator in small weighing room
3. In the preform press area
4. In small weighing room
5. Exhaust system North of fluffer
6. Make-up air vent into mill room
7. South aisle near power station
8. Inspection bench area

Based on the above survey the following recommendations are made as to the minimum action required with the present situation.

1. Local Exhaust Ventilation Local exhaust ventilation and dust collection systems should be designed, constructed, installed, and maintained at the fluffer, on each preform press, at the disc sander and in the small weighing room in accordance with the American National Standard Fundamentals Governing the Design & Operation of Local Exhaust Systems. The dust collecting system on the fluffer is inadequate.

6. Laundering Laundering of asbestos contaminated clothing should be done so as to prevent the release of airborne asbestos fibers. Any employer who gives asbestos contaminated clothing to another person for laundering should inform such person of the requirement to effectively prevent the release of airborne asbestos fibers.

7. Contaminated Clothing Clothing should be transported in sealed impermeable bags or other closed impermeable containers and labeled in accordance with paragraph (9) of this report.

8. Caution Sign Caution signs should be provided and displayed at the 4 corners of the asbestos operation so that an employee may read and take the necessary protective steps before entering the area. The signs shall conform to the requirement specified in 1910.93 a (g)(1)(ii) of the Federal Standards.

9. Caution Labels Caution labels shall be affixed to all raw materials, mixtures, scrap waste, debris or other products containing asbestos fibers. The labels should conform to the requirements specified in 1910.99 a (g)(2)(ii) of the Federal Standard.

10. Housekeeping All external surfaces should be maintained free of accumulation of asbestos fibers.

11. Waste Disposal Asbestos waste, scrap, debris, bags, containers, equipment and asbestos-contaminated clothing consigned for disposal should be collected and disposed of in sealed impermeable bags or other closed impermeable containers.

12. Record Keeping Maintain records of any personal or environmental monitoring for a period of at least 3 years.

13. Employees Records Every employee and former employee should have reasonable access to any records which indicate the employee's own exposure to asbestos fibers.

14. Employee Notification Any employee found to have been exposed at any time to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of 5 fibers/cc > 5 μ in length shall be notified in writing of the exposure as soon as practicable but not later than 5 days of the findings. The employee shall also be promptly notified of the corrective action being taken.

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15. Medical Program A medical program must be established. (See Medical Industrial Hygiene Manual - Asbestos.

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