Ken - Review with me - JGJ.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WH-887

PENGAD-Bayonne, N.J.





Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Westinghouse Building
Gateway Center
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15222

October 31, 1978

DIVISION GENERAL MANAGERS AND PLANT MANAGERS

cc: ELECTED OFFICERS
BUSINESS UNIT GENERAL MANAGERS
(MML-1, 2, 3X, 3, 4X, 4A, 5A and FML 16, 17, 20)
PERSONNEL RELATIONS MANAGERS & REPS.
SAFETY SUPERVISORS

In view of evolving government philosophies regarding occupational safety and health, two points need to be made: (1) claims alleging occupational disease are increasing; and (2) costs will be great unless we carefully analyze our material usage, modify systems as required and develop background data with which to defend our position should it become necessary.

Recently, HEW claimed that 20% of all deaths due to cancer resulted from occupational exposure. Although this finding is being widely disputed, it is certain the public reporting of such studies will cause an increase in occupational disease claims.

In recent weeks, three workers' compensation cases were filed against Ⓦ alleging death due to exposure to asbestos. Asbestos was considered relatively safe until the early seventies, consequently we lack historical employe and environmental data which will make it much more difficult to defend against such claims. If held valid, each claim could result in substantial benefit payments. In any event the litigation and administration costs will be significant.

Asbestos is only one of a number of materials known to be harmful. The effects of exposure to such materials may not be immediately evident since the latency period for many resulting occupational diseases is quite long.

To protect employes as well as Ⓦ assets, these actions must be taken immediately: Latimer Gause + Cann

1 • Only materials assigned a material or PD specification number are to be used. (See attached earlier letter on this subject which is still valid.)

2 • Materials of least toxicity must be substituted or systems designed (enclosure, automation, etc.) so that exposure is kept to a minimum.

3 • Each location must sample the environment and employes on a regular basis; and provide periodic medical surveillance of employes where potentially hazardous materials are used. (These actions are mandated by law.)

D. D. Danforth
Vice Chairman and
Chief Operating Officer

N. V. Petrou
Vice President
Human Resources

NOTE: The Digest of OSHA Medical and Environmental Surveillance Specifications, reissued in September by Corporate Medical Services, is an excellent guide for assuring compliance with the surveillance requirements.

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