FILE NAME: General Electric (GE)

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Denver, GHQ
Industrial Products Department
November 22, 1972

MEMO TO FILE

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
USE OF ASBESTOS AND OSHA CONSIDERATIONS

Roth and Bartlett spoke to Mr. James Nelson on November 22, 1972, with regard to above subject. Mr. Nelson is concerned with the product exposure with General Electric customers. He is in Schenectady, N. Y. A Dr. Steve Anderson has the public health concern and Mr. Ed Deck is responsible for any in-house problems caused by the use of asbestos. Both these gentlemen are in New York City.

Mr. Nelson stated that there was no corporate pronouncement nor policy to eliminate asbestos across the board. At this date, the Plastics Group has made their own decision to eliminate asbestos from plastic compounds. Also, the IMD Group has decided to phase it out of insulating tapes. In both cases these GE Departments made their decisions based on the economic penalties associated with clean-up equipment.

Mr. Nelson talked to the large steam turbine people who have no in-house problem. When they make a field installation they are concerned about its use as lagging, but the General Electric lawyers have told them that their exposure is minimal since this lagging work is done under contract with outsiders and the primary responsibility would rest with the General Electric customer who would normally be a Utility. I explained to Mr. Nelson that JM also is moving in the direction of an asbestos-free lagging so that this problem should be minimized.

I proposed that a JM Group meet with these three gentlemen at New York or Schenectady at their convenience, to bring them up to date with our current position and the present state of technology. Mr. Nelson will check with these two gentlemen and let us know.

W. H. Bartlett

cc: W. C. Roth