

48-72-79

01-ASBEST-WA

**Shell Oil Company**
Interoffice Memorandum

NOVEMBER 13, 1979

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

SH-3394

FROM: CAROLYN F. PHILLIPS, STAFF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST,
HS&E/S&IH - EASTERN REGION

TO: MR. V. A. HARRIS, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION MANAGER,
COASTAL DIVISION, SOUTHERN E&P REGION

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS - WEST LAKE VERRET PRODUCTION FACILITY

During a benzene monitoring project at the West Lake Production Facility, a Mechanic expressed concern over hazards from the use of an asbestos-like material being used to pack compressor mufflers.

A bulk sample of the packing material (John Crane Company) was sent to Westhollow Research Center (WRC) for analysis. It contains 80 percent asbestos, probably chrysotile, and a clay or mica filler (Attachment A).

During compressor operation, a black soot is emitted from the mufflers probably due to deterioration of the packing. A bulk sample of this blackened material was also sent for analysis. It contains <5 percent fibers including nonasbestos fibers (asbestos <1-2 percent) and some graphite, carbon and organic material (Attachment B).

This preliminary evaluation via bulk sampling indicates a potential release of asbestos into the work area. To prevent employee exposure to asbestos a nonasbestos packing should be substituted. If this cannot be accomplished we will need to follow the provision of the OSHA asbestos regulations (1910.1001) (Attachment C) which includes initial monitoring and the potential for regular monitoring, caution signs and medical surveillance.

If a packing material change is not feasible, let us know and we will arrange for the initial asbestos monitoring. We also recommend evaluation of other locations using muffler packing materials. If we can be of assistance in further evaluation, let me know.

CFP:BWD

Attachments

cc - Mr. H. J. McDermott, HS&E/S&IH, Head Office (w/o attachments)

ABS-002586

LAM 023515

PROJECT NO: 58-81-140 PROJECT TITLE: RESPIRATOR TRAINING-PSFC SUBJECT
FILE TRAINING

LOCATION: OSI

CONTACTS: (LEAD) REG/WISA

ALLOCATION: PSFC

ORIGIN: HS&E ☒ REQ.

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: 8/81

DATE:

REMARKS:

OPEN -

7/15/81 CFP ASSIGNED REG, WISA TO PRESENT RESPIRATOR
TRAINING PROGRAM TO PSFC GROUP, PROGRAM
SCHEDULED FOR 8/12/81 - 2 TO 3 HOURS IN A.M.
8/11/81 CFP/RJD PRESENTED PROGRAM TO PSFC -
PROJECT CLOSED -

LAM 023516

ABS-002587