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Inter Office

Transmission and Chemical Division
General Office

June 15, 1981

To: Messrs. P. E. Roth
E. W. Metzler

cc: Messrs. D. L. Brown
P. G. Gross
L. M. Long
R. L. Smith
M. E. Walker

Subject: Deterioration of Overhead Piping Asbestos Covering
Canton Plant

The overhead piping asbestos covering at the Canton Plant has deteriorated to the point that building vibration induced by overhead traveling cranes, presses, etc., causes the flaking asbestos to fall. The larger pieces are often ground into fines by industrial trucks and pedestrian traffic. Although the larger pieces are the most obvious manifestation, an observer would have no way of estimating the amount of asbestos precipitated in less than "chunk" size.

In recognition of the priority associated with asbestos related health hazards, the OSHA asbestos standard is without question the most publicized substance control effort undertaken by the Labor Department. The publicity has created a broad based public understanding that asbestos is a significant potential health hazard. The Ford Motor Company Carcinogens in the Work Place Task Force in early 1980 "selected asbestos for priority attention". In April of 1980, a Company-wide audit was conducted to identify asbestos usage and to alert plant personnel to the priority associated with the elimination of asbestos and/or asbestos containing materials. As an extension of the Corporate Program, the Employe Health Services has developed a 17 minute slide film presentation which will be distributed within the next 60 days with instructions that it shall be reviewed annually with all employes whose classification would potentially require that they intrude on previously installed asbestos. We can anticipate that the specific and elaborate requirements for employes intruding in asbestos installations (pipe repair, automotive brake service, etc.), will result in employe challenge of all installations where the asbestos is not effectively contained.

The purpose of this communication is to formally request your direction in determining:

- Is asbestos being liberated at Canton.
- Is the rate of liberation a health hazard.

o If a health hazard does exist, what are the engineering fix options.

We appreciate that an on-site inspection and/or sampling will be required and are anxious to participate in the discovery review in any manner that will advance the inquiry.

A response is requested.

R. D. Byron