PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
ATT-91

Subject: Occupational Safety and Health - Exposure to Airborne Asbestos Fibers - Request for Survey

SL: SR 79-05-398

type letter: Strong Recommendation

date: May 30, 1979

distribution lists: E&A and I-13

cc: SR 79-05-398

file no. related letters:

others:

American Telephone and Telegraph Company
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to: Assistant Vice President - Support Services
Copies to Medical Directors and Safety Coordinators

from: Assistant Vice President - Support Services

description: Requests comprehensive survey to determine extent of sprayed-on asbestos in Bell System owned and leased facilities.

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Section 29 CFR 1910.1001 of standards issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires all employers to establish and maintain an effective program for protecting their employees against asbestos exposures which may be above acceptable levels. As a result of this standard, there is a need to provide guidance to the OTCs so that they may develop and implement the programs needed to assure compliance with the current OSHA Standards for asbestos.

Baseline environmental studies conducted by the Environmental Health and Safety Department of Bell Telephone Laboratories have shown that there are two categories of asbestos usage which may potentially result in employee exposures which may be above acceptable levels:

1. Motor vehicle maintenance operations on brakes and clutches.

2. Operations in areas where sprayed-on asbestos was used for fire-proofing and heat insulation.

Instructions contained in GL 77-07-024 and GL 78-08-045 establish procedures for protecting employees from asbestos exposures while performing maintenance operations on brakes and clutches in company-owned vehicles. However, at present there remains a need for guidance concerning employees in facilities (owned and leased) with sprayed-on asbestos.

In order to develop guidelines which are both meaningful and realistic, there is a need for basic information concerning the extent of sprayed-on asbestos in Bell System facilities. As a result, each OTC is requested to perform a comprehensive survey of all their facilities (owned and leased) to identify all buildings which appear to have sprayed-on asbestos. Although bulk sample tests are not requested at this time, the OTCs might choose to do some sampling for corroboration.

NOTICE

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