2-69 REV 12 79

DUPONT
ESTABLISHED 1802

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
INCORPORATED
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

POLYMER PRODUCTS DEPARTMENT

cc: J. W. RAINES
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H. L. ADAM, BOD 1442
FILE: S-A1

C-7327

September 23, 1980

TO: J. F. DOUGHTY - WASHINGTON WORKS

FROM: L. F. PERCIVAL LFP

WORK WITH BRAKE LININGS

Re: Attached

In the attached note you requested a recommendation for personal protective equipment to be worn for protection against asbestos containing dust while replacing brake linings. No special protective clothing should be required, if monitoring results continue to show asbestos levels to be below OSHA and ACGIH limits. However, the two samples reported in the attachment are probably not enough to adequately characterize exposures, and more sampling is recommended.

It is important to stress good personal hygiene habits (i.e., washing hands etc.), and also periodic checks on filters at the vacuum exhausts.

After checking with several departments, Washington Works and Sabine were the only two sites that I was able to locate who do their own brake work. Haskell and ESD personnel had not previously addressed potential asbestos exposures from brake work. However, at my request, Dr. R. W. Morrow of Haskell contacted specialists at NIOSH who recommended that we rely on monitoring results using the standard analysis to help set protective equipment needs. Through S&FP Division contacts, I phoned G. Kortsha of General Motors who also backed NIOSH recommendations. Mr. Kortsha said that they recommend rinsing the brakes out with water as a simple method that was as effective as vacuuming out the brake dust. Either method should be effective.

As you indicated in your note, several articles have been recently published that have speculated about possible harmful effects from extremely small asbestos "fragments" ground off brake lining during use. These "fragments" are too small to be detected by standard asbestos counting analytical procedures. Any hazard from this source has not been defined enough to warrant special precautions.

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LFP/sab
Attachment

There's a world of things we're doing something about