PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MBL-232

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE March 20, 1974

TO H. A. Sinclaire, M.D.

C.C. R. J. Potts, M.D.

ASBESTOS EXPOSURE WHILE
REMOVING OLD INSULATION

A survey of asbestos use within our region has been conducted. Major exposures within refinery operations are likely to be from the removal of old asbestos-type insulation only because all new insulating material is non-asbestos material. Personal air monitoring during a typical insulation removal process was done at East Providence Refinery (Industrial Hygiene Survey E.R. 11-73). Similar studies were performed earlier at the East Chicago Refinery and we believe, in Western Region refineries. The results indicated that the exposure level is extremely low and well below the threshold limit value. We recommended that regardless of the airborne concentrations, all refinery workers engaged in insulation removal should wear Bureau of Mines approved respirators for pneumoconiosis-producing dusts. We have also determined the Paulsboro and East Chicago refineries insulation removal is largely, if not entirely, performed by outside contractors (See Industrial Hygiene Survey E.R. 19-73).

Proper respiratory protective equipment is specified under the OSHA Regulation Subpart G 1910.93a-Asbestos. OSHA regulations state that the frequency of sampling is prescribed only for employees whose asbestos exposure may reasonably be foreseen to exceed the limits, which we have demonstrated is not the case in our refineries.

G. B. Meyers, M.D.
Regional Medical Director

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Enclosure

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