Rough Draft - #2
June 16, 1971

AN EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES EXPOSED TO AIRBORNE ASBESTOS FIBER

Produced as [illegible] Under Penalty
Kingan Peal Kelly and Gordon Testy,
October 16, 1969, in Jamison V. A. P. Asbes.
et al. #7-12230

GENERAL

This program is designed to be given by the plant physician and followed by a question and answer period participated in by the plant manager, and plant production manager. The plant nurse should also be present.

INTRODUCTION

Asbestos had limited usage 4,500 years ago. Even though it was known to the ancients, asbestos can be truly called a modern mineral of the 20th Century since its output and use has increased a thousand-fold in the last sixty years. The applications of asbestos are surprisingly diverse and constantly expanding. Its uses vary from insulation products, such as made here at Berlin through fireproof clothing, fire resistent insulation in ships, brake shoes and clutch plates, to name only a few. In short asbestos is a very important mineral in our daily lives.

While it is a very important mineral in today's world and makes our lives more comfortable and safe, it does have drawbacks since it can cause adverse health effects in workers who manufacture and handle asbestos containing products.

No doubt you have heard that there are many different kinds of asbestos and some authorities believe that some types of asbestos are more hazardous to health than others. For our purpose, there is enough evidence to suggest that regardless of the type, asbestos should be considered a hazardous material which can cause disease. This does not mean that everyone who has been exposed to

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asbestos will be adversely affected, [redacted] to asbestos depends on the ability to get the fibers into the body in sufficient concentrations for a long enough period of time to cause detrimental changes. With regards to asbestos, let us look at each one of these points individually.

It is well established that asbestos is capable of causing changes in the lungs.

In order to cause these changes which doctors call asbestosis there has to be a sufficient amount of the material which gets into the lungs. Therefore, the amount of asbestos that is in the air is most important. If the concentrations of asbestos are kept low enough it is unlikely to cause disease even though some fibers may be inhaled. Various groups of health professionals, both within and outside of Government have established guidelines to define the concentration of asbestos dust which should be permitted in the work room air.

The important parameter of duration of exposure must also be considered. It usually takes many years, often times, twenty or more years of exposure to high concentrations of asbestos before the lung changes, called asbestosis, can be detected. This does not mean that a man who works less than twenty years would not contract the disease. This is only an average time and will vary with the concentrations of asbestos and with the individual's susceptibility.

Two men working in the same moderately excessive concentration for the same length of time, might both contract the disease, one man may contract the disease or neither man may contract the disease -- this is what is meant by susceptibility. From a medical standpoint we cannot identify a susceptible

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individual before he has an exposure nor [illegible] Why one individual will get a more severe case than another worker. Just as there are varying degrees of fatness or obesity which may run the gamut from little or no significance to very serious incapacitating health problems, so too asbestosis may be manifested by changes that cause no symptoms and can be detected only by careful medical testing to extensive changes which cause serious health impairment. It is probable that the great majority of individuals with asbestosis have no symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath or excessive putum.

METHODS OF CONTROL

Now that we have discussed the health effect of asbestos, how can we prevent them. It is important to control the amount of asbestos that is taken into the lungs. To do this the company has over the past two years made extensive changes within the plant to control dust by positive engineering means. You have all seen the duct work, hoods and saw enclosures that have been installed. Scrap on the floor can become a source of dust generation when walking or cleaning. Further, as you have all seen we have mechanical vacuum sweeping machines that assist in house cleaning. To date we have not been able to solve all of our dust problems by means of dust hoods and collectors. In those areas where it is difficult to install control equipment we still have dust levels which are higher than they should be. We will continue to keep working in these areas and you may see changes in the ventilation system from time to time as we find better methods of control.

Until we can achieve the level of dust control we believe necessary, by positive means it will be necessary for some of you to wear proper respirators.

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RESPIRATOR PROGRAM

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Techniques for measuring the amount of asbestos in the air have been rapidly changing and improving. Within the last two years there have been developed procedures and equipment with which we can measure more accurately the amount of asbestos fiber in the air by differentiating it from INNOCUOUS ~~harmful~~ dusts such as cement and lime which are generated in the plant. Using the most advanced sampling techniques and the new code on the level of dust that can be tolerated we have studied the entire plant for airborne asbestos levels and have identified those areas that have excessive asbestos exposures. It is only in these areas that personal respiratory protection is needed. Further, it will be required only until good engineering control can be achieved. Sampling studies using these procedures and equipment tests within the last year have indicated areas where dust levels are of sufficient concern to warrant wearing of respirators.

A personal respiratory protection program is only as effective as the men wearing the respirators make it. You men are the only ones who can really make the program work. The maintenance of health begins with each and every one of us.

There must be a good tight fit between the face and the respirator. After training it will be the responsibility of the man to make these adjustments, to keep the mask clean during the day and make certain that it is functioning properly. You will have demonstrated the proper wearing of the mask and maintenance while it is in your possession.

This is a typical mask that you will wear. The major parts of a respirator are the frame or the portion that fits over the face and holds the filter.

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and the filter holder which protrudes from the front of the mask. The filters are disposable and will be changed daily. In addition, there is an exhaust valve which permits exhaled air to pass back into the room.

It is important that the inside of the mask should not become contaminated with dust. If this should occur it should be wiped out with a damp towel. If you do not feel that your respirator is working properly you should bring this to the attention of your supervisor.

RESPIRATOR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

We expect you to keep the interior of the respirator clean during your workshift and be sure it is working properly. At the beginning of each shift you will be provided with a respiratory which has new filters in it. It will be dispensed to you. This respirator will have been completely disassembled by specially trained personnel, cleaned, serviced and a new filter installed each day. The cleaning process will sanitize the respirator so there is no possibility of passing germs from one man to another. At the end of the work shift collection points will be designated where you will drop off your respirators for cleaning and servicing. Again, it should be emphasized that an improperly worn or maintained respirator will not afford the required protection. This is the responsibility of the individual to see that it is worn properly.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

For many years, most of you men have received an annual chest x-ray as part of the preventive program. Annual check-ups are part of our health

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program and are also continuing to be upgraded to include more extensive tests beyond the yearly x-ray. This coupled with an examination by the plant doctor will permit detection at an early stage of any possible changes.

In the event that changes in a man's health status are noted, the individual will be told. If the change is not considered to be related to work, the individual will be referred to his family doctor.

If there are every any questions about our health program, ask your supervisor; if he cannot answer the question, feel free to discuss it with the plant doctor.

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We will now have a demonstration of the proper fitting and wearing of the mask as well as a demonstration of possible malfunctions. After this demonstration we will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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