

FILE NAME: Power Generation (POW)

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to Scott Bickford
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from Barry Castleman

A request for some fairly time-consuming research has come in from Scott Bickford (338 Lafayette St. New Orleans, LA 70130; 504-581-9065). He represents members of the marine engineers union with asbestos diseases. These men maintained the boilers and power plants on the steam ships of the merchant marine fleet in past decades. This work entailed extensive contact with asbestos-containing insulation. Bickford is especially interested in the knowledge and actions of companies that sold boilers (Combustion Engineering; Babcock & Wilcox) in addition to knowledge of asbestos insulation makers (see attached list of firms from my book).

We are looking for two types of information: 1) articles noting asbestos hazards in technical sources such companies would have been aware of (on dust, industrial hygiene, occupational diseases, respiratory protection, workers' compensation, etc.); and 2) advertisements by these companies wherein any implications of safety ("non-toxic", "asbestos-free", etc.) or acknowledgments of health hazards appear. Be sure to include any ads of these companies which appear in the same issue of a journal in which health hazards from dusts such as asbestos are separately alluded to in any way.

The years of our interest are 1930-1970, and I want you to examine all issues of each of the publications of interest in that period. The information on the enclosed list is incomplete, and some may even be incorrect. I have previously looked through a few power generation journals whose early names were Power Plant Engineering, Power House, and Southern Power Journal at call numbers around TJ1.P. As you can see, we want you to examine items 3-5, 8-10, 12-14, 18, 20-22. The last item handwritten by me refers to handbooks and texts on the nitty gritty of power plant design, operation, and maintenance. These are easy to scan, using tables of contents and indexes for subject headings such as those above, asbestos/asbestosis, health, disease, silicosis, etc.). The steam engine systems used to power merchant vessels, locomotives, and stationery electric generating plants are basically similar. We want to review the literature on such technology.

Also try to determine whether there is a source of abstracts on this technology (short summaries of articles indexed by subject) -- it'd be called Power Abstracts or something like that. The abstracting publications have been a good source of references on asbestos hazards in other trades, e.g., Ceramic Abstracts.

If you have questions or want to discuss this, please call. If you want to take a reliable assistant to help on this job, go ahead and do so. It pays \$20/hr plus expenses. As usual, copies

of anything must be self-identifying, so that means include journal issue cover pages, title page and copyright pages, or whatever isn't evident as to source and date on the face of the things you select for copying. You'll do well to obtain a stack pass to go down and look at the years for which various journals are available, scan journals for their likely usefulness, and maybe locate texts missed by using the card catalog subject index.

If you see anything on the enclosed list that is especially highly unlikely to be worth searching, just put it off for later and make me a note of your observations and impressions. I have not seen these publications, though I may come down to D.C. at some point in your investigation to have a look. In the mean time, I hope you can better prepare the way and narrow down the scope of matters that I'll have to decide. For obvious reasons, I want to conserve my time and limit the billing for it to a minimum, so we can do the most complete job in the most economical way.

Though this is not an urgent job, I'd like to see as prompt attention to it over the next month if that suits you. Scott Bickford is mailing an advance check for you to me. We expect this may well ultimately take you over 100 hours to finish.

Make 2 copies of everything you select and mail us each one with your reports as you proceed. You may obtain the assistance of Bickford's Washington D.C. office for making extra xerox copies and mailing stuff to us, phoning us, etc.

Martzell, Thomas & Bickford, 2101 L St., NW; 785-9700.

Good luck, call me anytime.