CO 279 B (6-64)

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MBL-209

DATE March 19, 1976

TO E. T. Gellenbeck - Beaumont
Attention: G. P. Pepper

C.C. W. T. Gregg - N.Y.
L. Levin - N.Y.
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D. E. Miller - N.Y.
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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INVESTIGATIO
EH #15-76
Mobil Oil Corporation
U. S. Division, Beaumont Refine
Beaumont, Texas
17 February, 1976

I. INTRODUCTION

An industrial hygiene investigation to measure employee exposures asbestos dust was performed at the Complex Plant, Beaumont Refine Hydrocracker Unit by Russel=L. Witzke, Industrial Hygienist on February 17, 1976.

II. SUMMARY

1. Findings

A. Employee 8-hour time weighted average and ceiling concentrati exposures to asbestos dust while removing asbestos pipe insulatio are within acceptable limits (OSHA 1910.1001b) which is 5 asbesto fibers per cubic centimeter.

B. Employees were following the prescribed work practices set by plant policy.

III. INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY

1. Asbestos Dust

A. Method

General area and breathing zone samples were collected by drawing air through an open-faced Millipore, Type AA, 37 millimet diameter filter attached to the worker's collar at a calibrated airflow around two liters per minute with a small battery operate

pump (MSA, Model G). The dust sample cassettes were submitted to an outside consulting laboratory (Clayton Environmental Consultants, Inc., Southfield, Michigan) for asbestos fiber counting which were reported as fibers greater than 5 microns in length per cubic centimeter of air.

B. Results and Discussion

The results of the asbestos dust sampling is summerized in Table I, which represents samples collected while insulators removed old asbestos insulation from an overhead line between Hydrogen Heater No. I and Reactor Tower No. 1. Personal samples indicate employees were exposed to concentrations between 0.05 and 0.33 asbestos fibers per cubic centimeter of air, which is below the OSHA allowable of 10 fibers for a ceiling limit for a short work duration of 15 minutes.

About 65 square feet of asbestos bearing insulation was removed from a 12 inch pipe located 40 feet above the ground. A wind of 22 mph was blowing from the West with Insulator, Castelaw, working down wind of the pipe, and his asbestos exposure was measured at 0.33 fibers per cubic centimeters.

The following work practices were observed during the insulation removal process:

a. Caution signs were displayed at a suitable distance around the removal site.

b. Wetting of insulation did not occur.

c. Debris was removed in sealed impervious bags with affixed caution tags.

d. Insulators used approved NIOSH dust respirators during their work duration.

e. The area was washed down after the removal operation was completed.

A follow-up investigation should be scheduled soon to duplicate this employee exposure data.

Compiled data should indicate employees are exposed below the effective July 1, 1976 OSHA regulation of 2 fibers per cubic centimeter for an 8-hour time weighted asbestos fiber limit or 10 fiber ceiling limit which can not be exceeded.

THESE FINDINGS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE PLANT MANAGER BEFORE LEAVING THE PLANT.

Russel L. Witzke
Industrial Hygienist

RLW:ss

MOBIL OIL CORPORATION

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Industrial Hygiene Sample Summary Sheet

Plant: U.S. Division, Beaumont Refinery — By: R. L. Witzke

Process or Department: Complex Plant, Hydrocracker Unit — Date: February 17, 1976

Materials: Asbestos Fibers*

Sample No.	Time	Description	Sample Volume liters	Concentration CEILING Fibers/Cm^3	Concentration TWA Fibers/CM^3
AA-76.2	10:38-11:15	Personal -	78.07	0.33	0.01
AA-76.4	10:38-11:11	Personal -	61.05	0.05	0.002
AA-7613	10:38-11:07	Area - Under removal platform	56.84	0.10	0.004

*Asbestos fibers greater than 5 micrometers in length

OSHA exposure limit. 1972	10	5.0	
1976	10	2.0	
Preposed	5	0.5	

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