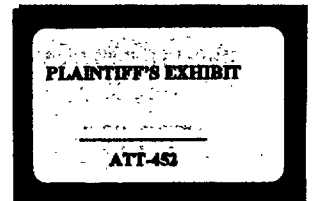




American Telephone and
Telegraph Company
1776 On the Green
Morristown, N. J. 07956

June 28, 1982



Mr. Alfred Algeria
New Jersey Bell - Business I & M
1500 Jefferson Street, Bldg. 703
Hoboken, NJ

Dear Mr. Algeria:

Thank you for your letter regarding my recent article in telephony magazine.

At the present time I am unable to provide you with specific Bell System Practices dealing with asbestos hazards that may be encountered in the course of an installation or maintenance assignment. Standardized methods and procedures relative to asbestos are currently under development at AT&T. While actual practices are not completed, much information on the subject has been transmitted to the Operating Telephone Companies in the form of System Letters and general guidelines.

Asbestos presents some problems that are difficult to solve on a uniform, standard procedure basis:

- It is almost impossible to predict in advance which buildings contain asbestos insulation
- Many materials that contain no asbestos look just like those that do
- Positive identification requires laboratory analysis of a bulk sample

Fortunately, in most of the typical situations encountered by I & M forces, the presence of asbestos does not necessarily mean a health hazard. The findings from our industrial hygiene surveys have shown that there is virtually no significant exposure when the wire and cable can be placed without knocking the asbestos insulation material

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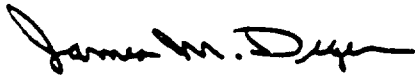
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off of beams and pipes. When it is necessary to place support clamps on asbestos-covered beams, a small spray bottle of water can be used to wet the material, which then prevents fibers from becoming airborne.

If you should have questions or concerns about specific work sites where you think asbestos may be present, you should refer those questions through normal supervisory channels to the New Jersey Bell Safety Staff. The Safety Staff is both trained and equipped to collect samples and evaluate the work environment for asbestos related hazards.

In the absence of Bell System Practices, I hope I have provided you with some useful information regarding your concerns for potential exposure to asbestos fibers.

Very truly yours,



James M. Degen
District Manager - Occupational
and Environmental Safety

Copy to A. B. Goetze, New Jersey
Bell Safety Coordinator

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