



FROM TOM FLORES

MR. GEORGE H. FARRAH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY
ALCOA TECHNICAL CENTER
ALCOA CENTER

POINT COMFORT OPERATIONS

MAY 1, 1973

RE: COLOR SLIDES OF ASBESTOS FIBERS

Enclosed are some color slides of some specimens of dust taken while a Söderberg pot was being lined with Skamol N-4 Hi-Temp insulation block.

The reason for taking the slides is that we're uncertain as to which fibers are asbestos. The thick white ones or the thin black ones, or both.

The color prints you sent with your letter of April 25th tend to show the black ones as being asbestos. I had suspected they would be because when viewed in the dark phase mode, they appear white, but when the condenser is in phase contrast, they look dark. As of December 6, 1972 we have been counting all of these fibers.

We don't have a Forton reticle because it wasn't listed in the AO catalog when we ordered our Microscope. What we have is AO 1409A micrometer reticle which is .25 mm long divided into 20 squares at 450X magnification. This will make each square 12.5 micrometer long.

I have kept duplicate slides with the exception of B4(a) and B4(b). After you have had time to study them, give me a call and we'll discuss them.

Notice that the black fibers in B4 appear white in B4(a).

TOM FLORES

Tom Flores
TF:djw

Enc.

ARD 043790

FROM TOM FLORES

TO MR. GEORGE H. FARRAH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY
ALCOA TECHNICAL CENTER
ALCOA CENTER

POINT COMFORT OPERATIONS

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TOM FLORES

TF:djw

Enc.

*Area of P.C.'s grid
is .0156 mm²
31 fibers in area*



SP-4000 (REV. 11-68)

ARD 043791

FROM RICHARD A. MILITO
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY
ALCOA TECHNICAL CENTER - C

TO MEMORANDUM

1990-03-29

RE: TRIP REPORT - ROCKDALE AND POINT COMFORT, MAR 19-23

The purpose of this trip was threefold:

- Consultation with and by personnel involved with analysis of bulk materials for asbestos content using polarized light microscopy.
- Consultation with various personnel involved in industrial hygiene, environmental and safety issues concerning sampling strategies.
- Familiarization with all processes specific to each plant in order to best perform my duties as an industrial hygiene chemist.

ROCKDALE, TX WORKS

Major Facilities

1. Aluminum smelter
2. Lignite mines (Sandow)
3. Boilers (3)

Contacts

1. Jim Richter, I.H., Safety, Environmental Technologist
2. Ron Linnstaedter, I.H., Safety, Environmental Technician
3. Nelson Mueller, Senior Mining Safety and I.H. Supervisor
4. Robert Kocur, Environmental Technician, Power Plant (for bulk asbestos)
5. Gary Greisbach, Manager, I.H. and Safety
6. Ray Gilkey, Mechanical Engineer, Electrode
7. Allan Clayton, Chief Chemist

Discussion

Topics included the various processes throughout the plant and assigned responsibilities of personnel. Lengthy consultations were held with R. Linnstaedter concerning asbestos analysis (PLM) and sampling. Consultation with Ray Gilkey on plasma arc cutting of carbon steel was held. Laboratory operation and quality was discussed with AlClayton and the need for a full-time industrial hygienist at such a large facility emphasized. Un



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fortunately, I did not get to speak with Gene Troggio, Power Plant I.H. and Safety or Jim Saxton, Environmental Superintendent. With the takeover by Alcoa of the Sandow Mines and three boilers, the Rockdale Works is a vast operation with a large number of responsibilities in industrial hygiene, safety and environmental control.

POINT COMFORT, TX OPERATIONS

Major Facilities

1. Ore unloading
2. Al_2O_3 production
3. HF production (AlF_3)
4. Red mud lakes

Contacts

1. Kerry Keller, I.H., Safety Technologist
2. Ray Scott, I.H., Safety Manager
3. Raleigh Prince, Environmental Technologist
4. Bill Elliott, Environmental Technologist
5. Larry Onkin, Environmental Technologist
6. John Mayfield, Environmental Supervisor
7. K. Spears, Chemical Engineer, HF Production
8. R. Nolan, QA Laboratory Technologist

Discussion

Topics included various processes throughout the plant and assigned responsibilities. Lengthy discussions were held with R. Prince (PLM analysis of bulks), L. Onkin (mud lakes), Kerry Keller and Ray Scott (sampling equipment and strategies), K. Spears (HF Monitoring equipment), R. Nolan (operation of the QA Lab) and John Mayfield.

The need for a seminar dealing with bulk asbestos analysis was discussed to include other plant locations. Such a seminar would be held every three years or so with input from all persons involved in this particular analysis. Also the need for a company newsletter dealing with bulk asbestos analysis was reviewed. These ideas were suggested by John Mayfield and, previously by D. Troutt of Alcoa, TN works. In the meeting between K. Keller, R. Prince, R. Scott and R. Milito, an open discussion was centered around various IH sampling strategies particular to Pt. Comfort processes. This discussion appeared beneficial to all participants and the need for such open forums emphasized.

ARD 043793

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Comments

I found all personnel with whom I had contact at Rockdale and Pt. Comfort extremely receptive and open to suggestions while at the same time leaving myself open for the same. It is obvious that the laboratories are organized and the personnel assigned to them are conscientious and exhibit a commitment to quality. I wish to thank all of the plant personnel for making my visit a so pleasant and informative.

RICHARD A. MILITO

cc: A. G. Clayton, Rockdale
J. Mayfield, Pt. Comfort
C. F. DiMascio, Pittsburgh-6
J. Damiano, Pittsburgh-6
J. A. Shockey, Pittsburgh-6
R. S. Danchik/D. R. Balya

12MM\ds

ARD 043794

RICHARD A. MILITO
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY
ALCOA TECHNICAL CENTER - C

R. THOMAS, TENNESSEE OPERATIONS
D. TROUTT, TENNESSEE OPERATIONS
B. ELLIOTT, PT. COMFORT WORKS

1989-04-06

Attached are the results from our first round robin QC survey regarding identification of asbestos in bulk samples. As shown, we all agree on the presence/absence of asbestos in the samples but encounter some difficulty in percent assessment. This is not unexpected however, since determination of percentage asbestos in samples is a difficult procedure. In fact, there are courses offered to teach just this aspect of the analysis. I would appreciate your comments on this matter and the survey in general. We will plan to send out the next set of samples sometime in June.

Also attached is the analysis of EHL samples by a commercial laboratory in our area. I think they erred in the analysis of sample 7738-1. Thank you for your fine cooperation in this round robin survey.


RICHARD A. MILITO

Attachment

cc: G. Mlaker, Pt. Comfort
C. F. DiMascio, Pittsburgh-6
J. A. Shockey, Pittsburgh-6
J. Damiano/R. M. James, Pittsburgh-6
L. L. Rippey, Pittsburgh-6
R. S. Danchik/D. R. Balya

ARD 043795

BULK ASBESTOS QC PROGRAM

CURRENT RESULTS

ANALYSIS RESULTS

SOURCE	SAMPLE ID	ATC-EHL	TENN.	PT. CONF.
		-----	-----	-----
ATC-EHL	7691-2	chrysotile(95)	chrysotile(>90)	chrysotile(95)
	7721-1	non-asb(20)	non-asb	non-asb(15)
	7738-1	amosite(50)	amosite(>75)	amosite(75)
ALCOA, TENN.	134	non-asb	non-asb	non-asb
	148	amosite(35)	amosite(50)	amosite(75)
	177	chrysotile(60)	chrysotile(25)	chrysotile(5)
PT. CONF.	34	non-asb	non-asb	non-asb
	35	non-asb	non-asb	non-asb
	39	chrysotile(95)	chrysotile(50)	chrysotile(100)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAB

FIBROUS COMPONENTS

PENNRUN CORP

FIBROUS COMPONENTS

7691-2
7721-1
7738-1

95% chrysotile
20% synthetic
50% amosite

PRC-00543
PRC-00544
PRC-00545

99% chrysotile
10% synthetic fiber
60% chrysotile

ARD 043796

FROM RICHARD A. MILITO
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY
ALCOA TECHNICAL CENTER - C

TO MR. B. ELLIOTT
POINT COMFORT OPERATIONS

1988-10-27

RE: IDENTIFICATION OF A DIFFICULT FORM OF ASBESTOS

Included in a set of bulk samples submitted to EHL by Bill Elliott of Point Comfort for quality assurance purposes using polarized light microscopy (PLM), was one sample (07117 007) which was difficult to analyze. The sample displayed a positive sign of elongation and appreciable birefringence but did not appear to exhibit colors characteristic of many minerals listed in the single polar mode. Recently, I again encountered this sample material, including the rose-colored matrix, and isolated fibers for analysis using X-ray diffraction. In addition, I have questioned a colleague and have located literature regarding this evasive fiber. The fiber in question, which I am sending you, is a heated form of Amosite (Grunerite) and is described on page six of the attached general literature regarding asbestos. Upon heating, the fibers turn brown (dark red) and become very fragile while undergoing modification of the original crystalline structure. Of course, other asbestiforms such as chrysotile may also be present. I hope this correspondence will alert you to the presence of this material in the future.

Richard A. Milito
RICHARD A. MILITO

cc: G. Mlaker, Pt. Comfort
C. F. DiMascio, Pittsburgh-6
J. A. Shockey, Pittsburgh-6
R. S. Danchik/D. R. Balya



SF-4563 (REV 05-7)

ARD 043797