

Occupational Health Working Group
Murray Hill, New Jersey
July 29, 1980



In Attendance:

R. L. Beach (Co-Chairman) - AT&T, Human Resources
G. P. Bisgeier, M.D. - NJ Bell, Medical
J. P. Dunn, M.D. - AT&T Medical
M. J. Hanley, M.D. - BTL, Medical and Environmental Health
J. R. Lauritzen - Western Electric, Environmental Engineering
R. W. Stone, M.D. (Co-Chairman) - AT&T Medical
G. M. Wilkening - BTL, Environmental Health and Safety

Absent:

A. G. Bickelman, M.D. - C&P Tel. Cos. Medical
N. J. DeCabua, - AT&T Support Services
J. M. Degen (Secretary) - AT&T Human Resources

REDACTED

Guests:

M. M. Condie - AT&T
G. K. Preiser - BTL
R. W. Speir, M.D. - NYT
F. R. Saunders - AT&T
W. J. Schreibeis - BTL
F. X. Worden - Western Electric

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REDACTED

Asbestos Exposure Guidelines - Status

Mr. Beach distributed copies of a revised draft of Guidelines for Exposure to Airborne Asbestos Fibers. Members were asked to provide final comments by August 15, 1980.

OSHA standards for asbestos require that employees be informed about the nature and effect of exposure to asbestos fibers, and about the sources of potential exposures in Bell System work environments. Mr. Beach suggested that the proposed guidelines would be of much greater assistance to the Operating Companies if they were supported by a standard employee information package. Dr. Bisgeier agreed, and proposed that the OHWG support the development and funding of appropriate materials. A subgroup composed of Dr. Bisgeier, Dr. Dunn, and Mr. Degen was appointed to investigate the logistics and potential cost of the proposal, and to present their findings at the August meeting.

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Respiratory Protection - Requirement for Medical Examination

Mr. Preiser of the BTL Legal Department discussed recent court decisions affecting the enforceability of requirements for physical examinations in connection with the use of respirators. General requirements are stated in the OSHA Standard for Respiratory Protection, 29 CFR 1910.134. Section (b)(2) of this Standard states that persons should not be assigned to tasks requiring the use of respirators unless they are physically able to perform the work and use the equipment as determined by the local physician.

Mr. Preiser concluded that there is now no legal duty to perform this requirement under 1910.134. The requirement continues to be valid, however, for specific standards which mandate the use of respirators for protection from specific substances (e.g. Lead, Asbestos, etc.).



R. L. Beach
For the Secretary

Attachment

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OHWG

1973

interdisciplinary (IDECC) A/E
environmental control committee

1st meeting - July 5, 1973

Broad goals listed
founding members
formulated standards

several who had an interest: Dunn Stone, Winkler, [unclear] [unclear]
the group

NIOSH - does/proposes research
CSHA - inspects

noise heat stress, carbon monoxide - earliest topics

felt they had some input in shaping reasonable ~~standards~~
standards

Marcus Key - probably 1st NIOSH director

ORC (Organizing Resources Consultants, Inc) COS Safety & Health
Standards Group - similar to OHWG only on inter-co level

1974

Asbestos, lead, polynonyl chloride - Feb/March '74 (see notes)
discusses involving engineer in the group's work
suggests operating COS starting their own OHWGs
includes draft introducing the group to the rest of
the company
" overview of standards/goals

IDECC/OHWG met simultaneously for awhile
later worked more on WE-specific projects

\$300,000 1975 budget - pretty much allowed them to do
anything they deemed necessary

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1980

REDACTED

OHWG did educ programs to instruct workers in safe work habits in regard to:
(u. brake mechanics re asbestos in brake repair)

Human Performance + Support Center

example of OHWG communicate with rest of the co. once standards in place

made video on asbestos exposure + microwave safety

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