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Bell Laboratories

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

ATT-72

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Introduction

In the early part of 1975 A.T.&T. formed a committee called the Bell System Occupational Health Working Group (OHWG). The purpose of this committee was to investigate the exposures of employees in TELCO's to various environmental insults.

This committee which consists of representatives from A.T.&T., Western Electric, Bell Labs and two operating TELCO's contracted with the Bell Labs Environmental Health & Safety Department to perform a Baseline Industrial Hygiene Study. The purpose of this study was to obtain measurements on the exposures of Bell System employees to determine baseline conditions including exposures to toxic or harmful agents.

Since the summer of 1975 measurements have been taken in - different operating TELCO's. These measurements include: asbestos

In addition certain practices and procedures were reviewed to determine if they are being followed.

The following report summarizes the findings of these measurements and makes some recommendations based on the findings.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Asbestos

Asbestos measurements were taken in central offices, business offices, and on the operation of changing and/or inspecting brakes.

The following table presents a brief summary of these results.

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Asbestos

Building/Area	Concentration f/cc
CO/Equip. Frames	0.01 - 0.3
CO/Mec. equip. room	0.01 - 0.09
DO/Offices	0.01 - 0.2
Garages/Changing Brakes	0.04 - 0.3
Outside/Ambient	0.01 - 0.4

The present OSHA standard for asbestos is 2 fibers per cubic centimeter greater than 5 micrometers in length (2f/cc).

Before discussing the results further a brief discourse on the method of analysis for asbestos fibers might be appropriate. The present method of analysis calls for the fibers to be counted using a phase contrast microscope. The standard calls for any particle having an aspect ratio (the length of the fiber over the width of the fiber) of the 3 to 1 or greater and a length greater than five micrometers it is to be counted. This method does not positively identify the fiber as an asbestos fiber. If the analyst feels that the fiber is not of the asbestosform type the wording of the present standard requires it to be counted as an asbestos fiber.

From the table it can be seen that the asbestos levels measured are well below the present OSHA standard of 2 fibers/cc. Most of the expcsure levels are of the same magnitude as the ambient levels.

The only exposure listed in this table that have been reported elsewhere in the scientific literature is on changing brakes. One report gives values much higher than the OSHA standard, another report gives values close to those reported here. Further measurements on these exposures are being planned.

In general the exposures of Bell employees to asbestos is the same as they would experience from an ambient exposure. Although the exposures are low the provisions for medical examinations in the present standard may present problems. As the standard now reads any exposure to asbestos fibers triggers the requirement of medical exams (note the key word "any").

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Strictly interpreted this could mean all Bell System employees should undergo medical exams. The A.T.&T. OHWG has taken steps to clarify this matter with OSHA.

In addition, to air samples for asbestos fibers analysis of certain insulating materials used on boilers, steam pipes and ventilation ducts. The results of these analyses showed that some materials contained as much as 55% asbestos.

Potential high exposures do exist for certain Bell employees. These employees include, brake mechanics, maintenance men working on insulating materials, and plant personnel pulling cable through transite duct.

A program should be developed to identify, monitor exposures and perform physicals on employees who may be exposed to asbestos. In addition examine various supplies to determine if they contain asbestos. If possible these supplies should be discarded using proper procedures. If they cannot be discarded they must be packaged and labelled in the proper manner.