

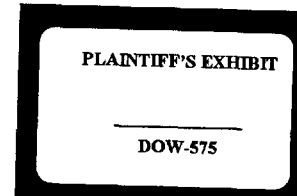


DOW CHEMICAL U.S.A.

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2020 BUILDING
September 28, 1990

ASBESTOS REGULATIONS
WILLARD H. DOW CENTER
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CHLOR-ALKALI
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U. S. ASBESTOS REGULATIONS

I am beginning to hear more and more Dow folks associated with our chlor-alkali business, express concern that the asbestos regulations pertaining to our diaphragm cells could change quickly, and the suggestion that this might be in the air today in Washington.

Between the two of you, I'm confident that you will be able to tap all of Dow's Regulatory expertise in short order to get some data and hard facts.

My understanding is as follows:

1. First, asbestos chlor-alkali diaphragms are excluded from the current regulations - not an exemption. This is a very significant difference.
2. The currently covered items in the regulations, e.g. asbestos pipe, roofing materials, etc., have until 1997 to remove all of the asbestos from their products. This was an 8-year phase-out from 1989 when the regulations were promulgated.
3. Since asbestos chlor-alkali diaphragms are excluded (point #1), it would require the complete rule-making process (e.g. ANPR, public comment period, etc.) to change this, a process that normally takes 1-2 years.

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4. Finally, my sense of the current mood is a growing understanding that the cost of removing asbestos from buildings over the past decade was way out of line with the benefit gained.

If my understanding of the current status and process is correct, I conclude that if the shoe dropped tomorrow it would be ~2000 before non-asbestos Q/A diaphragms would be required.

Stan and John, please get the facts together and the collective wisdom of our Dow regulatory experts within the next couple of weeks.



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