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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WRC-1433

To: The Asbestos Commission
From: Ellen Lewlands and Edward Allen
Subject: Progress Report from the Asbestos Commission Staff
Date: December 17, 1979

This progress report outlines the new developments and activities of the Asbestos Commission staff since the June 27 Commission meeting.

Since the June meeting there have been many new developments especially relevant to the Asbestos Commission's mandate. These developments will be discussed in this report.

PUBLIC BUILDING SURVEY WORK

Public Buildings in Massachusetts are being surveyed in sequence according to the priorities established by the Commission at the June meeting.

State colleges and community colleges (which have young populations with long residence time) are being surveyed with methodology developed in public school work with only minor variations. Hospitals have been surveyed on request but will take second priority after colleges. Air sampling is not currently employed in the preliminary survey of a public building due to its limited usefulness for public exposure evaluation. (Public Buildings surveyed to date are included as Appendix I)

REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS

A $2 Million reimbursement fund for public schools has been passed in the state legislature. Policy for equitable

Air Sampling

As has been previously stated, the Asbestos Commission does not believe that asbestos controls should generally be recommended on the basis of air sampling.

The NIOSH asbestos air sampling and counting procedure were developed for the high exposures found in the workplace and are not appropriate for public health protection. The Commission has found thay the lower limit of sensitivity for this method is 0.04 f/cc, and any data below this is not recognized as significant.

However, the Asbestos Commission air sampled in all 178 schools found to contain asbestos. Two of those schools sampled showed extensive damage to the sprayed-on asbestos coating and air levels above 0.1 f/cc, even with repeated sampling. The Commission decided that the air levels were significantly high so as to justify closing the schools and recommending immediate removal or encapsulation. It is the Commission's opinion that schools with significant quantities of airborne asbestos (0.1 f/cc or greater) not be allowed to postpone controls until a convenient time, and that air sampling be used to identify these schools.

Marking

The Asbestos Commission supports marking all schools where friable asbestos has been found, and not yet removed. All schools with asbestos, even those which have encapsulated or enclosed the asbestos material, should be identified for safety, both present and future. As well as marking the building itself, it should be mandatory that a marking be attached to the building records. Most large scale school building projects require a permit, and funds from the State