FILE NAME: John Crane (JC)

DATE: 1978 Sept 8

DOC#: JC101

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo to Ken Swanson form Louis Czaplewski RE Employees having concerns about asbestos monitoring

More detailed description of document contents: [Letter with] John Crane employees raising concerns about asbestos monitoring in one of the packing plants in 1978, 5 years before John Crane claimed it first ever sent warnings out with the packaging of its asbestos products.

CRANE PACKING COMPANY

TO: KEN SWANSON

FROM: LOUIS CZAPLEWSKI

CC: E. DEAN - 998
R. CIERAS - PERSONNEL
W. KOCH - 959
H. TANKUS
V. E. VORHEES
A. ZOBENS - 756
IF: AB FPW SP

DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, [illegible]

SUBJECT: FEEDBACK FROM THE PACKING BUILDING PERSONNEL REGARDING THE ASBESTOS MONITORING PROGRAM

While monitoring asbestos levels in the Packing Bldg., the employees have been making comments, asking questions about the safety of their working conditions, and offering their impressions of the housekeeping practices in the building. The following comments, some of which are not within the direct scope of the asbestos monitoring program, do reflect an important and strong concern about their own safety and the safety of their fellow employees. Consequently, it seems important to consider their morale and their concern for a clean and safe workplace.

The Laboratory Staff is of the opinion that the following list of complaints should not be taken lightly but looked into by administrative personnel who are directly responsible for the personnel employed in the Packing Division. These employees accept us as fellow employees who are concerned about their safety and industrial hygiene. Most of them would be reluctant to voice their feelings to Management. However, the level of their morale would be greatly improved if some concrete improvements could be made in the areas pointed out below.

Summary of Employee Comments:

1) Rows of asbestos braiding machines are spewing asbestos dust while only one small exhaust duct labors above a few machines in the center of the rows. Workers had been told that "something would be done," but nothing appears to have been done. Workers are disgruntled by the empty promises of improvement.

2) Vacuum cleaning of accumulated asbestos laden debris from work areas, machine surfaces and floors has been emphasized in the past as the safest means of disposal. However, employees complain that the vacuum cleaning equipment is not being used. Cleaning by means of sweeping and blowing with compressed air hoses are common daily procedures.

3) The clean up of the [illegible] compression presses involves blowing compressed air for the removal of [illegible] which gather in and around the press area. Clouds of graphite and asbestos dust are produced, while fans blow dust around the area. Employees claim they had been promised that exhaust equipment would alleviate the problem. [illegible] has been done to implement any improvement.

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4) Personnel handling and packaging zinc coated rings complain that excess zinc dust is left on the parts and they cannot avoid inhaling it. Inhalation leaves a metallic taste in their mouths for a long period of time after the exposure which may be a potentially dangerous health hazard.

5) The above are the major comments which have been paraphrased for informative purposes. We believe the employees realize that the job functions they are performing will at times be less than desirable when they are working with products such as graphite, asbestos and zinc powder, etc. They are expressing their wishes for additional improvements in the areas of industrial hygiene which they believe could be made if their welfare was of any concern to Crane Packing Company.

The last subject we wish to bring to your attention is the resistance we have encountered in recent monitoring of certain employees in the packing division.

Employees who had been cooperative in the past have lately become somewhat antagonistic to the monitoring program. Certain personnel, in fact, have outwardly refused to be monitored. When asked for reasons for their change in attitude, they related that: 1) They have seen little or no improvement in the general housekeeping procedures since the inception of the monitoring program and 2) They have never been informed about their individual test results obtained through the monitoring program.

L. J. CIAPLEWSKI
SEP 12 1978

I. FREIMANIS
SEP 12 1978

F. WISNIEWSKI
SEP 12 1978

S. M. PAUL
SEP 12 1978

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