FILE NAME: Kentile (KEN)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Revised Summary - Barry Castleman History of Kentile

Kentile

Made flooring sheet and tile in Brooklyn, Chicago, Torrance CA. starting 1930, used 20% asbestos at first and later went down to 15% and 10%, stopped using asb. in July 1986 allegedly because of changes to OSHA regs. First Kentile product warnings ~ 1978 used non-OSHA language ("inhalation of asbestos may be injurious to your health"); Kentile noticed warnings from asb. supplier J-M in 1968. Belonged to RFCI, AIA. First acquired knowledge of cancer hazard from asbestos in "1970s, OSHA". (Answers to Interrogatories)

1964 -- Plant I.H. airborne asbestos dust survey (Liberty Mutual) total dust counts 8-33 MPPCF, asb. 1 MPPCF – reported w/control rec. to Kentile plant mgr. in Brooklyn

1968 – ACGIH suppl. Doc. On asbestos rec. 12 f/cc, discussed Selikoff conference, neighborhood mesothelioma

1969 – 4-8 f/cc in 12/69 Liberty Mutual IH survey

1971 -- Chicago plant management held dust control meeting

1972 – Kentile testifies at OSHA hearing objecting to proposed 2 f/ml PEL, warning signs and labels, requirements for bagging wastes
-- Kentile in AIA gets briefing after OSHA rule issued, req. respirators in weighing area, scale men rotated every 2 hrs.

1978 Apr. 7 -- RJ Sergi reports fiber counts hard to get below 2 f/cc in Chicago, anticipates lowering of PEL to 0.5 f/cc would set off "forced mad scramble to produce tile without asbestos. Why not start now?"

June 5 – Jack Clegg VP announces that "We are in the process of revising our cartons, samples, imprinting plates, literature, etc., which will henceforth refer to all out Vinyl Asbestos patterns as "Kentile – Reinforced Vinyl Tile."

1979 -- NIOSH HHE found one possible LCa in Chicago plant from asbestos, 300 workers, TWA 0.1 f/cc, 15-min ceiling 0.5 f/cc

1982 notice to workers on asbestos – rinse work clothes before taking them home to be cleaned