NEW PROCEDURE USED ON MAJOR ASBESTOS HAZARD

A New Orleans Developer Stumbled on Asbestos—Then Abated the Problem With Such Skill and Imagination That the Project Attracted Praise from State Environmental Officials

When New Orleans real estate developer Gordon Kolb purchased an abandoned warehouse complex near the Mississippi River, he planned to demolish the structure and build a retail center on the side. What Kolb hadn't planned on was undertaking one of the largest asbestos abatement projects ever attempted in the New Orleans area, a project for which he would later garner praise from state environmental officials.

The building, once the home of a National Gypsum factory, had until last year been used by International Building Products, Inc., to manufacture asbestos cement and transite, a siding material composed of asbestos cement. Kolb knew that some asbestos would have to be removed before demolition could get underway. But no one had warned him of the extent of the problem.



Developer Gordon Kolb (standing) earned high marks for his cooperation with City Estate Environmental Officials. Here Kolb speaks to a group of officials including (clockwise from Kolb) Bob Kieferle (Insulation Technologies), Eddie Jackson (Lanier & Asso.), Dr. Shau Nong Chang (Lanier & Asso.), Bill Davis (La. DEQ), Cliff Channey (La DEQ), Lloyd H. Gautreaux (Insulation Technologies), Mike Andry (N.O. Dept. of Health), Dr. Oscar Medrano (N.O. Dept. of Health), E. Kingsley Ikhinmwin (N.O. Dept. of Health), E. Sorrell Lanier (Lanier & Asso.), Stan Middleton (Gordon Kolb & Asso.).

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