

FOR APPROVAL ONLY

Westinghouse Statement on Asbestos Contamination Complaint
at the TVA Gallatin Plant

Westinghouse is refurbishing four combustion turbines at the TVA power plant in Gallatin, Tenn. The combustion turbines were built during 1969 and 1970. Westinghouse began refurbishment work in October of 1990.

There have been allegations of asbestos contamination at the site. Westinghouse and TVA personnel on-site were not exposed to asbestos hazards.

Prior to the initiation of work, Westinghouse, TVA and the Tennessee EPA sampled materials at the site. Insulation products, with strands of asbestos bound into them, were identified. The materials were identified, isolated and all personnel were instructed to not work on them.

TVA employed an abatement contractor to remove materials from site. The contractor, Global Power Company, was certified by the Tennessee EPA. Throughout the process, air samples were taken by the asbestos abatement company. The samples indicated a minimal presence, which is well within OSHA limits, during 8-hour sampling periods. The Tennessee EPA visited the site on three occasions, took materials samples in the plant, and found Westinghouse and TVA to be in compliance with applicable Tennessee standards.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. We understand that OSHA has lodged complaints against Westinghouse. What is your comment?

We take issue with the health violations alleged in the OSHA complaints. Westinghouse encapsulated the insulation materials as an additional health precaution for on-site personnel. This process is over and above the required OSHA health standards. OSHA alleges that during the 15 to 30 minutes it took to encapsulate the insulation materials, Westinghouse should have taken air samples. Westinghouse takes issue with this position. We believe that the employees were protected during this process. They wore protective clothing and respirators throughout the process.

2. Employees allege that Westinghouse violated safety standards on the site and permitted asbestos exposures to occur. Your comment?

TVA, Westinghouse and the State of Tennessee have independently investigated these allegations. In all instances, no problems were found. Westinghouse and TVA will investigate any further allegations, and we will continue to take all steps necessary to protect worker health and safety.

3. How many Westinghouse personnel are on-site?

Approximately 30 craft employees and about 4 administrative and project management employees.

4. When was the asbestos abatement conducted?

The process was begun in April 1981 and was completed in mid-July.

5. Employees say that they were unaware that they were working on equipment containing asbestos. Your comment?

An evaluation of the situation by a Westinghouse health and safety manager indicates that there have been some flaws in the communication process. On several occasions, we posted sampling results on bulletin boards on-site. On other occasions, we communicated with union stewards. In hindsight, we now recognize that we weren't successful in communicating with all personnel. The issue is Westinghouse did not adequately communicate about the areas that were free from asbestos. We are correcting the situation.

During July, we have had several meetings with all employees. We explained all test results and their frequency. We reviewed all the work that has been done. During these meetings, many employees expressed concern that they had been working with asbestos contaminated materials. Although they had the impression this was the case, it was not.

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