A. E. MENKE

SAFETY & SECURITY

MR. A. G. CLAYTON

LABORATORY

Confidential

October 22, 1971

RE: ASBESTOS

On October 13, 1971, the attached clipping was found on the bulletin board in the Carbon Plant.

A few minutes later, a brickmason stopped me in Building 58 and complained at length about the indiscriminate use of asbestos shorts in patching baking furnaces. This work is done by operating personnel under the supervision of Mr. Enquist. He also pointed out a broken sack of asbestos with a small amount of loose material scattered on the floor. I have requested Mr. Enquist to keep this material in an enclosed container.

Mr. Clark complained later strongly that the air in the furnace rooms was contaminated with asbestos since the blanket material was being re-cycled through the system repeatedly.

Will you please evaluate any problems we may have in this regard.

A. E. MENKE

AEM:beh

cc: T. B. Bonney, Pittsburgh
G. W. Hutton/D. M. Nystrom

ALCOA

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT AL-378

ARCH 18755

Asbestos Controls Called For

(C) 1971, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The National Research Council has declared that asbestos dust poses a health hazard for the general public and called for new stringent controls to keep it out of the atmosphere.

Prolonged inhalation of the dust by asbestos workers has been linked to the disabling and sometimes fatal lung disease asbestosis and to chest and abdominal cancer.

The council said that because it is unknown how much asbestos can be inhaled safely, it would be "highly imprudent to permit additional contamination of the public environment."

In the absence of controls, the report warned that concentrations of airborne asbestos in some localities might approach those encountered by workers in the asbestos industry.

The report found that small amount of asbestos are found in the lungs of most persons but that there is not enough evidence now to indicate whether it affects health.

Asbestos gets in the air in a number of ways. Some fibers are released during the use of man-made products. In asbestos cement, shingles and tiles the asbestos is tightly bound and undergoes little abrasion or wear, but in other products, such as asbestos cloth, paper and spray fireproofing materials, the fibers are not tightly bound and can escape into the air, the report declared.

It found spray fireproofing of buildings "a serious source" in densely populated areas. Another major source is the dust from the demolition of industrial and commercial buildings where asbestos was used for insulation and in wallboard.

The report was prepared for the environmental protection agency by a panel of the National Research Council's committee on biologic effects of atmospheric pollution.

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