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UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

CATALYSTS AND SERVICES

Molecular Sieve Department
Tarrytown Technical Center
Tarrytown, New York

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TO: A.J. Caglione

DATE: March 5, 1986

SUBJECT: Lab 771
Asbestos Removal

CC: W.P. Fethke
F.D. Lutz

The following is a brief summary and status of the Asbestos situation in Lab 77L.

1) September 6, 1984 Four areas in Lab 77L in the linde building were identified as having exposed, crumbling pipe insulation that appeared to be asbestos. Samples of these materials were given to W.P. Fethke who in turn contacted the site hygienist (Bob Bulgaski). The response we received was that there was no asbestos on site.

2) January 1986 Personnel from Allied maintenance who were involved in moving pipes in Lab 77L pointed out that the insulation on the pipes were probably asbestos. All work was halted and W.P Fethke was contacted.

3) January 9, 1986 Allied personnel removed the suspect insulation, treating it as if it was asbestos. This work was handled poorly as described by A.J. Caglione in a PROFS note to W.P. Fethke dated January 9, 1986

4) March 3, 1986 Letter from F.D. Lutz to W.P. Fethke identifying the particulate matter as amosite asbestos fibers and listing the air sampled concentrations taken during the removal.

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At this time we are still awaiting the results of the background air samples taken on January 10, 1986. We also still have old deteriorating pipe insulation on the main building water pipes under the stairs in lab 77L. This is the fourth and appears to be the last of the suspect areas identified in 1984. At this time I would like to request that background air samples be taken over eight hour periods under four different sets of conditions that are representative of the daily operation of lab 77L. I also feel that people in the business of removing asbestos be used to remove the last of suspect insulation. There are other areas in Lab 77L that appear to have asbestos pipe insulation which does not appear to be deteriorating. Encapsulation is probably the best way to handle this remaining insulation.

Tom Reynolds
(2238)

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When Victor D. Ziminsky III, a financial consultant in Mount Kisco, N.Y., moved into a 35-year-old home in 1983, he said he noticed asbestos insulation wrapped around the pipes in the basement. But he said he didn't worry about it because county health department officials told him it wasn't hazardous if intact.

About six months later, however, Ziminsky came home one day to find that a plumber had cut through the insulation while working on the hot water system. That, he said, was cause for worry.

"When you're thinking about it and you have a wife and kids in the house, you want to eliminate any concern," Ziminsky said.

Like most homeowners faced with an asbestos problem, Ziminsky and his wife, Megan, went through a three-stage process. First, they called in a contractor to inspect the house and determine where asbestos had been used and where it was hazardous. Then they had tests done to determine the level of contamination. Finally, they had to choose between sealing off the asbestos or having it removed.

Some asbestos products, like the Ziminskys' insulation, are marked, making it easier for homeowners to identify potential problems. But many products either aren't marked or the markings have faded.

When in doubt, Amy Rock, health scientist for the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, said people should assume those products likely to contain asbestos do. In the Northeast, she said, asbestos is most commonly found in insulation wrapped around heating pipes and boilers, in millboard insulation around stoves, in furnace cement, stove door gaskets and vinyl floor tiles.

Asbestos also may be present in household appliances such as toasters, refrigerators, popcorn poppers, slow cookers, ovens, ranges, clothes dryers and electric blankets. Manufacturers voluntarily recalled hair dryers containing asbestos in 1979.

Plumbers, carpenters and heating contractors who frequently work with asbestos often are able to judge whether a product contains the mineral. For full-scale inspections, however, homeowners may want specialists.

Because asbestos contractors are not licensed in every state, specialists advise that homeowners call the U.S. EPA or their local health department for names of reputable companies.

Roellen Garito, president of the Asbestos Corporation of America in Yonkers, N.Y., said inspection costs vary depending on house size. But she said homeowners can keep down costs by attempting to pinpoint areas of concern in advance.

"A person has to realize if they've been living with the material for 10 [illegible] then they can. So, when they do contact a professional, they know what they would like us to check."

Homeowners can get asbestos information from several private and public agencies, including the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission in Washington, D.C.; the Asbestos Information Center at Tufts; and the White Lung Association, an educational organization founded and run by asbestos victims in Baltimore, Md.

Asbestos contractors interviewed were reluctant to give estimates for inspections and abatement projects. Oppenheim-McMullen said a visual inspection might cost $25 or $30; an entire removal project, thousands of dollars.

Generally, Garito said, it is cheaper to seal off, or encapsulate, decaying asbestos. Whether it is removed or encapsulated, however, most projects will run at least $2,000, she said.

After inspecting the site, most contractors will take samples of the asbestos material and have it analyzed. Air sampling may also be done to determine the severity of the problem.

Then, it is up to the homeowner to decide what to do.

Ziminsky said he and his wife encapsulated because it was less expensive than removal and didn't require reinsulating the pipes.

To seal off the asbestos in the Ziminskys' basement, the Asbestos Corporation of America first wrapped the insulation in duct tape to repair damaged areas, then painted it with a silicone-like sealant and finally plastered the pipe joints, Ziminsky said.

When the project was completed, an independent air-sampling company tested for contamination, and the area was cleaned a second time to bring the fibers down to a safe level.

In a removal project, a contractor follows a similar procedure of inspection, testing and cleanup, but the material is carted away.

Ronnie Cooper, of the Asbestos Removal Co. in Brooklyn, N.Y., said homeowners should make sure the company they hire:

— Follows EPA and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines.

— Seals off the work area with 4-millimeter plastic before disturbing the asbestos.

— Has asbestos carted away by a licensed hazardous waste hauler.

— Conducts air tests to ensure that the project has been satisfactorily completed.

Given his concern about the health of his family, having the asbestos sealed off was well worth the $700 he spent, Ziminsky said.

"Any level of concern was something I wanted to eliminate," he said.






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