Asbestos Information Association/North America

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P. B. POTTER

OF VITAL IMPORTANCE

We have just learned that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has decided to redo the entire asbestos standard, starting from scratch.

The official reason is that recently developed medical and technological data indicates that the present regulations no longer reflect "the best available evidence." The real reason for the decision is that OSHA has taken so much flack from both industry and labor regarding the standards that OSHA wants to get itself off the hot seat. This time, however, OSHA is determined to make sure that no complaints can be raised over its handling of the development process.

Thus, within two to three months, a 15 man (the maximum allowed under the law) advisory committee will be put together to review all the available evidence and make its recommendations to OSHA. The 15 man advisory committee will consist of: four representatives from industry, four representatives from organized labor, two from government (one each from NIOSH and the Department of Defense), two from State Government, and three representing the scientific community. Dr. Selikoff will be one of the scientific community representatives --- this has already been decided. The Chairman will be selected from among the three scientific community representatives. The committee will be given from three to nine months to complete its work.

Public hearings will be held following the submission of the advisory committee recommendations. Recommendations for individuals to sit on the advisory committee will be sought from industry trade associations, thus the AIA will once again find itself in the forefront of the industry effort.

You will obviously be kept closely informed of all developments regarding this situation.

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Swetonic

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
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