

July 14, 1976
TA 76-35

Mr. William Green
Office of Property Management
G.S.A. - F.S.S.
Room 804 Crystal Square Building #5
Washington, D.C. 20406

Dear Mr. Green:

This letter is in regards to your request for NIOSH assistance in making an assessment of the General Services Administration (G.S.A.) bulk asbestos storage sites. G.S.A. has approximately 8,000 tons of bulk asbestos stored in large metal tanks and in warehouse facilities throughout the United States. Three different sites were visited to try to determine the extent of the problem. They were: Letterkenny Ordnance Depot, Chambersburg, Pa., G.S.A. Supply Depot, New Bedford, Mass., and Ravenna Arsenal, Ravenna, Ohio.

After the site visits, the data was presented to various NIOSH officials with expertise in the safe use and handling of asbestos. Each has agreed that proper handling procedures are possible but may be expensive. The consensus of opinion is that the asbestos should be bagged. To accomplish this a negative pressure pneumatic conveyor system using high efficient particulate filters (HEPA) on the discharge side of the conveyor system and local exhaust ventilation at the bagging station is needed.

However during this operation an employee must be stationed at the "suction" end of the conveyor system, which would be inside the steel tank. The employee would then be required to wear a type of supplied air respirator with a full face-piece operated in pressure-demand (positive pressure) mode or with a full face-piece, hood or helmet operated in continuous flow mode. The employee must also be provided with, and required to wear, special clothing, such as coveralls, head coverings, gloves, and foot coverings.

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In addition the employees must be provided change rooms and showers and medical surveillance must be maintained on these employees. These are part of the rules and regulations on the safe use and handling of asbestos as promulgated by the U.S. Department of Labor 29 CFR 1910.1001. As you can see working with asbestos is very involved and can be expensive.

I have been in touch with some manufacturers of the type of equipment needed to do the job and they are ready to talk to G.S.A., but as you stated in a phone conversation, you have not progressed to that point in time as yet. I will keep all this information in an inactive file and sometime in the future if G.S.A. decides to go ahead with this project we can reactivate the file.

I hope we have been of some help to you and if you have any questions or need further information do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas L. Anania
Industrial Hygienist
Hazard Evaluation and Technical
Assistance Branch

cc: T. Anania
TA 76-35
IHS File

TLANANIA/kb: Rm 331, POB, Cinti, Ohio: 7/14/76