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Mr. R.A. Wells

2nd December, 1976.

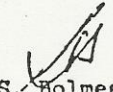
Hindley Green South Block
Blue Fibre

There is no doubt that the area in question is significantly contaminated with crocidolite. Mr. Sykes took a sample on site a few weeks ago to confirm this. Removal of the material is essential, but the responsibility for doing so is not clear. The fibre is there as a result of J.W. Roberts' blue spray operation, but whether it was deposited when JWR was a subsidiary of TBA or not I cannot say. It is certain that its safe removal and disposal will be a costly business.

As suggested by Mr. Wolstenholme, we must discuss ways and means with H.M. Factory Inspectorate and the Lancashire Waste Disposal Authority as a first step. Regarding the removal itself, I think we must see that, however the material is handled, it is in a wet state, because the site is in the open air, with domestic premises not far away. The authorities will probably insist on strict adherence to the ARC Code of Practice i.e. bagging the material, in which case more than 2000 bags of heavy gauge polythene will be involved. (It would make the clearing job much easier if we could load the material into the standard steel waste skips, covered for transport, but the disposal of unbagged crocidolite on a tip, even if properly buried, would not be acceptable). Transport of the bagged material could be carried out by our normal waste disposal contractors.

The main problem is the digging up and bagging of the material. It is understood that a particular type of mechanical digger (JCB) could excavate the material to a fairly precise depth. If it is then to be bagged it is suggested that some type of bagging unit could be devised or hired to facilitate the bagging operation. This work, of course, would have to be carried out under strictly controlled conditions by a responsible work force, who would probably be required to wear full respiratory protection and protective clothing.

It will certainly be necessary to replace the material removed by another type of filling, otherwise there will be an accumulation of water and major drainage problems.


S. Holmes.