January 28, 1991

ABB POWER DISTRIBUTION

ASBESTOS INFORMATION

This is a summary of molded asbestos materials used in ABB arc chutes in the past.

There were two types of material used. The cold molded asbestos material had a nominal 30% asbestos material by weight. The other material, Transite, was an asbestos sheet material containing 40% asbestos by weight. Both of these materials contained asbestos, only in the bonded state, and under normal usage no asbestos fibers would be released. Asbestos fibers could only be released if these items were subject to drilling, sanding, milling or filing, which customers are not likely to do. See attached Material Safety Data Sheet.

K-LINE ARC CHUTES

Prior to second quarter 1987, K-600-2000 ampere arc chutes were made with asbestos fibers bound in a Portland cement mixture. K-3000 and 4000 ampere arc chutes used this material through the fourth quarter of 1987. In this bonded form, this material is not harmful; see the attached Material Safety Data Sheets.

From the first quarter of 1988 to the present, all forms of the K-line breakers have used non-asbestos moldings containing a mixture of Portland cement and Wollastinite. Although this material has proven satisfactory in all short circuit tests, its reduced mechanical strength led ABB to develop another asbestos free arc chute with improved mechanical properties. This new melamine-like cold-molded product is used on K-600 through K-2000 ampere circuit breakers. K-3000/4000 arc chutes will continue to be made from the Portland cement/Wollastinite mixture until they are replaced in the second quarter of 1991 by a special polyester-glass material.

Asbestos arc chutes had a mottled cement gray/white color whereas the non-asbestos material is a more uniform cement gray color. The improved non-asbestos arc chute moldings are all black in color.

5HK ARC CHUTES

Prior to mid-1984 the 5HK 250 and 350 arc chutes had a jump gap block made of cold molded asbestos. This molded part is buried up inside of the arc chute and is not viable or accessible unless an arc chute is tilted upward or inverted. The part involved is at the bottom of the arc chute jump gap assembly and is a cold-molded compound which contains 17% to 19% bound asbestos fibers. The asbestos is contained within the molding compound and there are no free asbestos fibers due to this configuration. Due to the bonding of the asbestos material and the lack of any free fiber, no health hazards will feasibly occur as a result of the use of asbestos in this form.
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7.5 & 15HK 500 ARC CHUTES

No asbestos.

15HK750 ARC CHUTES

No asbestos.

15HK 1000 ARC CHUTE

This arc chute had some Transite sheets (approximately 1.8 lbs.) prior to 1984.

15HKV 500/750

No asbestos.

38HKV 1500

No asbestos.

FBK ALL RATING

No asbestos.

HV

These arc chutes did have liner plates, arc plates and spacers made of Transite.

DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS

Cold molded asbestos and Transite material should be disposed of in accordance with local environmental regulations.

Attachment: Material Safety Data Sheet