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Transmission Electron Microscopy Analysis Used to Discover Asbestos in Mesothelioma Patients

HOUSTON, TEXAS – Leading asbestos expert Dr. Ronald F. Dodson and Lee W. Poye, Vice President of J3Resources, Inc., presented “Observations from Quantitative Analysis of Tissue Burden for Elongated Particulates by Light and/or Transmission Electron Microscopy as Related to Attribution of Mesothelioma” at the ASTM Johnson Conference July 25, 2011. National and international experts in asbestos monitoring research presented their latest work at this conference.

This presentation was later published in the *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health* as “Mesothelioma in an Individual Following Exposure to Crocidolite-containing Gaskets as a Teenager” (with third author, Samuel P. Hammar). The complete document can be found at <http://www.j3resources.com/news/published-papers>. A synopsis:

Mesothelioma is considered a signal tumor for asbestos exposure and typically occurs decades after first exposure to asbestos. Tissue analysis often indicates past exposure to mixed types of asbestos. This report describes the case of a 58-year-old man who developed mesothelioma after reported exposure to crocidolite from asbestos-containing gaskets beginning at age 16 during three summers during high school and for approximately four hours per day during the last semester of his senior year. He had no further known exposure to asbestos. Analytical transmission electron microscopy analysis of digested tissue samples revealed elevated levels of crocidolite asbestos fibers and the presence of crocidolite cored ferruginous bodies. This case is unique in that it establishes that relatively short and/or intense exposures to crocidolite asbestos traumatically released from a previously classified Category 1 nonfriable asbestos containing material (NESHAP) was confirmed via tissue burden analysis years following the historically defined exposures.

ASTM Committee D22.07 on Air Quality sponsored the 2011 Johnson Conference to provide a unique forum for presenting current research and fostering open discussion. This year’s focus was asbestos monitoring, with emphasis on topics such as the current regulatory framework, risk management, risk assessment and methods for monitoring asbestos in air, soils, and other matrices. The Johnson Conference was held at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont. Attendees included environmental consultants, industrial hygienists, laboratory analysts and managers, building owners, and federal, state and local government officials.

Poye and Dodson currently serve on the D22.07 Air Quality standards-writing committee for ASTM. Others on the committee include federal and state regulators (EPA, NIOSH, OSHA) as well as prominent environmental consultants and certified industrial hygienists. The Committee meets twice a year; the next gathering will be early 2012.

ASTM International, formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary consensus standards. Today, some 12,000 ASTM standards are used around the world to improve product quality, enhance safety, facilitate market access and trade, and build consumer confidence. ASTM's leadership in international standards development is driven by the contributions of its members: more than 30,000 of the world's top technical experts and business professionals representing 135 countries. Working in an open and transparent process and using ASTM's advanced electronic infrastructure, ASTM members deliver the test methods, specifications, guides and practices that support industries and governments worldwide.

Lee Poye is Vice-President and Laboratory Director of J3 Resources, Inc. J3 is a AIHA, WBE/SBE certified laboratory specializing in analysis of asbestos and mold utilizing transmission electron, polarized light and phase contrast microscopy. J3's highly experienced staff provides superior independent analytical services while ensuring legally defensible results. J3 takes great pride in the services it provides for a variety of businesses including: governmental agencies, educational institutions, commercial business organizations, environmental consultants, professional services firms, and homeowners. For more information, visit www.j3resources.com.