

Otaco Electric Furnace

Size 20 Ton

5ft. X 8ft.

Lining used Asbestos covered by powder referred to as Cement???

Quantity used total weight per furnace 2,500 lbs.

Lining changed every 30 to 45 days.

Removal process was to use hammer and chisel. Waste sometimes would come out in larger pieces 1ft. square but most of the time it crumbled into dust as removal proceeded. Waste was removed and trucked to what was referred to as the swamp but according to informants information the material was spread randomly in a large area and was not buried in a pit.

This practice went on for some 15 years until asbestos was removed from the market and an alternative was used until factory closed.

A number of former employees died from cancer but one death in particular that of Roy Eastcott (Sebright) was directly attributed to handling this liner material and recognized by Workers Compensation as fact.

Possibly many more have died or are currently ill.

Conservatively there is 608,000 lbs. (304 tons) of this material distributed over a large area of the property which potentially will become airborne if disturbed.

Waste Disposal Practice

Large quantities of De-greaser chemicals were disposed of in the lagoon as regular practice as well as a product identified as a Catalyst used in the foundry. Former workers identified this product as being particularly hard on them physically as the fumes were so bad as to make people sick almost immediately. There was also routine disposal of paints and varnishes. One particular chap was involved in the disposal of a large quantity (45 gal. drums) of paint which had frozen and was not usable in the lagoon. Lagoon location described as being around the end of Queen St. area of the property. The practice of dumping waste went on throughout the history of the site. The thought was it was cheaper to dispose of garbage?? out back than to truck it elsewhere. There were hundreds if not thousands of empty barrels stacked out back which gives indication of the volume that was used and these were removed as sold or given away but the piles only returned with further use.

Jim Tolnai

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