

PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

14878-00

E. A. Spardy

Walter P. Sinclair

Asbestos Health Hazard
NIMA & ASTM Spring Meeting

May 7, 1969

Dear Ernie:

The subject health hazard was not on the agenda of NIMA Meeting, April 10 and 11, Savannah, Ga., and was not officially discussed at the Meeting. However, reference was made to the research of the problem being performed by Dr. Irving Selikoff, New York Mount Sinai Hospital. Also, Jack Barnhart briefly referred to the Texas insulation worker's law suit against five insulation manufacturers which was settled out of court for \$75,000.

At the ASTM Committee Meeting, April 13 to 16, Savannah, Ga., Mr. M. Anmuth, Chemist NAVSEC Philadelphia, referred to the NAVSEC, Washington, D. C., letter of April 9, 1969 on a study of asbestos insulation materials. According to Anmuth, NAVSEC Philadelphia Division had been assigned the job of conducting the study with submissions of biweekly report to NAVSEC, Washington, D. C., and completion of the study by August 1969. On completion of the study, the information obtained will be evaluated and Navy's decision made accordingly.

Apparently, there was some misunderstanding of the information received from Anmuth by a few Committee Members. Jack Barnhart, during the Planning Committee, informed me he had bad news for me and that the Navy had discontinued the use of asbestos pipe covering. George Gronemeyer, Mineral Insulation Company, Inc., told me he had received similar information from W. F. Hulse, contact member between Committee C-16 and ASTM Headquarters. Frank Covan, York Research Corporation, Washington, D. C., had received erroneous information to the effect that no asbestos pipe covering would be used by the Navy in the construction of new vessels. I contacted each of these named men and questioned each about his erroneous remarks and informed them that there had been no change in procurement and the use of Unibestos pipe covering by the Navy. Also, Pittsburgh Corning Corp., had not been notified, nor advised to the contrary by the Navy.

Mr. Hulse informed me he had obtained his information from the NAVSEC April 9 letter in Anmuth's possession. We both contacted Anmuth and Mr. Hulse, after reviewing the NAVSEC letter again, stated he had previously misinterpreted the context of the letter and would inform Gronemeyer of same.

P. S. Maco, Asbestospray Corp., during C-16 Business Meeting, under the heading of new business, proposed a symposium during Committee C-16 Fall Meeting, Dearborn, Mich., on the hazards of asbestos insulations and precautions to be exercised in the application of the products.

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I talked with Roy Allen during lunch on May 2 about Maco's proposal and Roy stated, no decision had been made by the Executive Committee relative to the symposium. If the Executive Committee agrees to a symposium, Roy does not approve of limiting it only to asbestos products, but to all types, classes and forms of insulation and accessory materials. This will require further discussion in subsequent C-16 Meetings. Consequently, there will be no symposium during the C-16 Fall Meeting.

Yours truly,



Walter P. Sinclair

WPS/is

cc: R. E. Fuhs ✓

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PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

E. A. Spardy

Walter P. Sinclair

Asbestos Health Hazard

May 7, 1969

Dear Ernie:

Supplementing the information given in my Jan 6 memo., the Navy has continued its investigation and taken further action on the possibility of the subject health hazard. Directives have been issued to Navy Yards and other Navy activities to comply with CHM Safety Precaution For Shore Activities NAVSO-P-2455, April 1965 (copy of abstract Mineral Dusts attached), in the handling, prefabrication, installation and rip-out of asbestos thermal insulation materials. Also, a study, recently started, will include conduction of a survey of Navy and a few selected private shipyards, as to asbestos insulation, cement, felt and pipe covering they are using and the reason for their use; also what new or other insulation could be used in lieu of asbestos materials and the cost of such insulation. The industry is to be invited to cooperate in the study by furnishing NAVSEC information on the safety precautions exercised in the manufacture of their asbestos insulation products. Also, what other type materials they have to offer for the services, where asbestos insulations are being used and cost of the materials. Visits of NAVSEC and Navy Bureau of Medicine personnel to Navy, and private shipyards and to the industry will be made in connection with the study.

Although the conduction of the study was decided by NAVSEC during the early part of Jan. 1969, the official directive letter of assignment and responsibility for the study by NAVSEC, Philadelphia Division at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard was not forwarded to that activity until April 9, 1969. During the interim, I frequently checked with the personnel of NAVSEC, Code 6101, Washington, D. C., who prepared the draft of the letter, but they were not cognizant of the reason for the delay. It appeared that the proposed study may be dying a slow death, but which did not occur. I endeavored to obtain a copy of the directive letter forwarded to NAVSEC Philadelphia, but was unsuccessful and was informed that copies of a similar letter with about the same context, are being forwarded from NAVSEC Philadelphia, to the industry

Sincerely,

WPS
Walter P. Sinclair

WPS/ljs

cc: R. E. Fuhs ✓

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