

DRAFT

H. J. Killian

Subject: Board Presentation
Current Status - Asbestos Health

*27th Feb
For next monthly agenda
Board Meeting
Date - 12/1/71
Rescheduled 12/1/71*

Format of Presentation

This presentation will cover the following items:

1. Asbestos products sales - 1970.
2. Products containing asbestos.
3. Tonnage used in our major producing plants.
4. Present standards - internal and external.
 - a. Comments on standards.
 - b. Dr. Selikoff's comments
 - c. Comments on medical technology to-date.
5. Status of Plants.
6. Present plant x-ray evaluation.
7. Comments on potential Canadian problem.
8. Role of National Gypsum in AIA/NA and EPA.
9. Summary statement.

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1. Asbestos Products Sales - 1970

Corrugated Asbestos - #100 wt.	\$1,707,641
Corrugated Asbestos - #250 wt.	142,603
Form Board	33,160
Flats	2,035,155
Prefinished Flats	403,570
Perforated Panels	897,352
Siding	5,435,167
Woodrock	1,757,092
Asbestos Panels	454,235
Accessories	276,063
Fiber	3,215,193
Joint Cement - Dry	1,575,865
Joint Cement - Wet	3,960,281
Texture	706,547
Total	\$22,706,295

2. Products Containing Asbestos

Perfect Spray
 Spray Quick
 Other sprayed textures
 Joint Compounds (Dry)
 Readi Mix Joint Treatment
 All Asbestos Cement Products

3. Tonnage Used in our Major Producing Plants

Approximate tonnage used in our major producing plants in 1970 is as follows:

Thetford Mines.....	55,900 tons produced
Thetford Mines.....	19,953 tons - Sales in U.S.A.
New Orleans.....	8,100 tons
Millington.....	4,000 tons
Matteson.....	450 tons
Baltimore, Westwego and Long Beach.....	120 tons (approx.) at each plant

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1. Present Standards - Internal and External

Internal

We are governed by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 which has a Threshold Limit of:

Mppcf

Silicates (less than 1% crystalline silica)

Asbestos - 12 fibers per milliliter
greater than 5 microns in length (j) or..... 2

(j) - as determined by the membrane filter method
at 430 X phase contrast magnification.

External

The proposed standard under EPA regulations covering hazardous pollutant emissions:

"Visible emission" means an emission of greater than 5 percent opacity or 1/4 Ringelmann.

Visible emissions of particulate matter from any manufacturing or fabricating operations in an area directly open to the atmosphere are prohibited.

Visible emissions to the atmosphere of particulate matter resulting from the repair or demolition of any building or structure, other than a single-family dwelling, in which asbestos insulation or asbestos fireproofing is present are prohibited.

The spraying of any product which contains asbestos on or in any building or structure is prohibited.

The surfacing or resurfacing of any roadway with asbestos tailings is prohibited.

A. Comments on Standards

*x The present internal standards are those that were promulgated under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and have been introduced as part of the new Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970. Where Walsh-Healey covered plants with government contracts exceeding \$10,000, the new Act covers every manufacturing facility in the United States.

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B. Dr. Selikoff's Comments

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York wrote Secretary James D. Hodgson August 3, and stated that a death toll of thousands can be predicted as an outcome of serious error of judgment in setting asbestos exposure standards. He claimed the proposed level is (1) much higher than actually now exists, (2) so high as to make ~~these~~ totally ineffective current efforts by both industry and labor to control the hazard, Selikoff charged. The standard, which would allow workmen to be exposed to environments containing as many as 12 fibers per cc of air, contrasts with the approved level in Great Britain which is less than 1/5 this level. The U. S. standard of exposure "for more than even 10 minutes" would be sufficient to require that the workmen wear protective clothing and use an efficient respirator, according to Selikoff.

Research in the asbestos trade of insulation work shows that work in areas with levels of 203 fibers per cc of air "has resulted in a very great increase of death due to cancer and to asbestosis." One in every five deaths among insulation workers is due to lung cancer, one in 10 to cancer of the pleura or peritoneum, and one in 10 to scarred lungs or asbestosis.

Copies of Selikoff's letter were sent to officials of the Asbestos Workers Union; United Steelworkers; Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union; United Papermakers and Paperworkers; International Chemical Workers; Textile Workers; the AFL-CIO and the Industrial Union Department; and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

It must be remembered that the above EPA regulations are proposed and should be printed in the Federal Register possibly ~~this~~ this week. We then will have 90 days to submit appeals or recommendations on changes on any part of the proposed code that we feel is unattainable or unrealistic.

C. Comments on Medical Technology to-date

Basically the known facts can be summed up as follows: 000221

First, asbestos-related health risks are basically confined to the occupational and para-occupational setting.

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Second, the effects of excessive inhalation of asbestos are both time and dose related. This means that asbestos-related diseases may develop, generally, only after the inhalation of substantial amounts of asbestos dust over a substantial period of time.

Internal

All three plants are on the program to have dust counts made in the area where asbestos is used. It would be the writer's recommendation that an Engineering study be made for more efficient automated and recycling systems. From visible observation, there are areas in each of these plants that I am sure we do not meet the Threshold Limit Value. Housekeeping and enforcement of the wearing of protective equipment is essential in all of these three plants.

No known external problems.

6. Present Plant X-Ray Evaluation

Our latest x-ray evaluation indicates a change in the lung markings of 38 employees at Millington and 39 employees at New Orleans. The present maximum compensation cost per employee to National Gypsum would be \$25,000, any additional cost would be borne by Hartford which in due course would affect the changed insurance cost to National.

7. Comments on Potential Canadian Problems

In all meetings to date with both the EPA in Atlanta, Georgia; the Department of the Interior and the American Mining Congress, the representatives of the industry have kept in mind that the Mining codes established in the States have a history of being followed in Canada. In all the deliberations, the industry representatives guided the EPA and the Bureau of Mines in what was needed and what was economically feasible for the Mining future of asbestos. All agencies were given all factual data that was pertinent and available to their deliberations. Some of the original ridiculous proposed standards were immediately eliminated when the Committee was informed of the true picture. The writer is confident that the various associations who are following the United States legislation will keep a close eye on Canadian movements in this area.

8. Role of National Gypsum in ATA/NA and EPA

See A. H. Fay's remarks attached and include the Tulane study which he missed.

O.A.M.A.

Complete pulmonary function tests, including x-rays, were taken of all people at Johns-Manville and our New Orleans plant. The results are now being tabulated.

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9. Summary Statement:

In this presentation, we hope that no panic button has been pushed. Asbestos can be handled -- there is no known 100% substitute for it today. When the medical technology is developed and true standards established, we are positive that we will be able, with our Engineering know-how to meet the standards. We can foresee no immediate major problem in our Canadian operations and, at the present time, our position will be to be kept well versed on all aspects of the subject and to cooperate as an industrial team in furnishing the skill and the know-how of our people to give factual input to any regulatory bodies attempting to promulgate standards.

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and others, there is presently no evidence of hazard to the general public from exposure to the minute amounts of asbestos that may be present in community air.

In summation it can be said, at the present time, medical science has not been able to provide a dose related level of exposure that can be medically and scientifically proven. The levels of asbestos exposure are currently being studied at Tulane University under the sponsorship of the Q.A.M.A., Johns-Manville and National Gypsum Companies participating. We are hoping that these studies will lead to an exposure level that will be attainable by the industry.

5. Present Status of Plants

Millington - Internal

A problem exists with the regrind material and our present method of handling it. This is the only area that we have exceeded in our recent dust counts, the Threshold Limit. This problem will be studied by Engineering for possible automation or, more direct, recycling.

Millington - External

It is felt that, at the present time, we meet the criteria of federal and state regulations. There may be a local problem at Millington concerning the sludge pits.

New Orleans - Internal

A dust survey was made two weeks ago. We do not have the results, at this time, with the exception of the area on the second floor where the batch is mixed. This again is regrind material that must be handled in a much more efficient and automated method which will require an Engineering study. We also must enforce more efficient house-keeping and cleanliness in this area, plus the wearing of protective equipment until automation takes over.

New Orleans - External

No known external problems here. We will have to improve some of our past practices in handling waste material in the open yard areas.

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