

SPECIAL MEETING
MANUFACTURING & MINING COMMITTEE
SHERATON BUFFALO-EAST
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

August 10, 1976

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. W. B. Hoffman, Vice Chairman of the Manufacturing & Mining Committee. Those in attendance were:

E. R. Kiehl	The Celotex Corporation
E. J. Cole	Geogia-Pacific Corporation
C. O. Campbell	National Gypsum Company
A. H. Fay	National Gypsum Company
D. G. Hamme	National Gypsum Company
W. B. Hoffman	National Gypsum Company
R. G. Moore	National Gypsum Company
F. H. Zimmerman	National Gypsum Company
J. D. Cornell	United States Gypsum Company
W. Lewis	United States Gypsum Company
K. E. Mohler	United States Gypsum Company
A. V. Abnee, Jr.	Gypsum Association
F. J. Rogers	Gypsum Association
B. H. Jackson	Legal Counsel

Vice Chairman Hoffman opened the meeting with self introductions, noting that the special meeting of the committee had been called relative to the proposed MESA mineral fiber standard, and that the purpose of the meeting would be to determine possible action of the Association with respect to the proposed standard.

1. REVIEW OF PROPOSED MESA MINERAL FIBER STANDARD

Mr. Frank H. Zimmerman of the National Gypsum Company, member of the MESA Federal Metal and Non-metal Mine Safety Advisory Committee, reviewed the proposed MESA mineral fiber standard which had been introduced by MESA at the most recent Advisory Committee meeting. He noted that the proposed mineral fiber standard presented to the Advisory Committee by MESA also included consideration of air quality and ventilation, for arsenic, beryllium and lead, and would affect well over 2000 industrial operations in addition to the gypsum industry. He stated that the proposed mineral fiber standard was nothing more than the current asbestos standard with the word "asbestos" removed, and questioned the need for such a standard in view of the fact that there are no documented health problems, that he was aware of, in any of the industries that would be covered by the proposed standard. Mr. Zimmerman noted that a special task force of the Advisory Committee consisting of two labor, two management and one state government representative, to which he had been assigned, would be meeting sometime in the future for the purposes of studying the proposed standard. Mr. Zimmerman said that he had been notified that the sub-committee would not be meeting prior to the next scheduled Advisory

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Committee meeting August 24 through 26, 1976. He noted that it was not known at this time when such meeting is held, whether it would be open to the public. Mr. Zimmerman concluded his review by noting the importance for industry to study the effect of the proposed standard on their operations and to prepare data that could be used with MESA, if it became necessary in the future, to assure defeat in the promulgation of the proposed standard. There followed discussions relative to the intent and wording of the proposed MESA mineral fiber standard, and it was the consensus that on the basis of our current industry operational knowledge within the mineralogical and employee health areas, that application of the proposed mineral fiber standard in the gypsum industry is unwarranted.

2. REVIEW OF MEMBER COMPANY MINERAL FIBER TESTING EXPERIENCE

Industry representatives commented briefly on their company's programs to test air quality relative to mineral concentrations within their gypsum mining, quarrying, crushing and grinding operations. In general, such member company programs were few and limited in scope, and it was the consensus that there was no current industry data available relative to gypsum mineral fibers. It was noted of the various varieties of gypsum deposits that only the Satin Spar variety was found in a fibrous silky form, and that this variety of gypsum was not common in North American gypsum deposits.

Mr. A. H. Fay, of National Gypsum Company, reported on an asbestos fiber study conducted by the Asbestos Information Association of North America. He noted that the Weston Environmental Consultants of Westchester, Pennsylvania had conducted the AIA study and he referred to their report entitled: "Technological Feasibility and Economic Impact of OSHA Proposed Revision to the Asbestos Standard," and also "Excerpts from Asbestos Industry Response to OSHA on Proposed Revision to Asbestos Standard 29, CFR part 1910," during his comments. He stated that he was not attempting to correlate our current mineral fiber concerns with that of asbestos, but that the general format and policies followed by the AIA in initiating such studies could be quite beneficial and possibly serve as guidelines for our industry if it was decided that we pursue a similar study course through the Gypsum Association. He noted that the AIA study program covered two major areas; one, relative to actual dust counts taken in industrial operations, and the second, to analyze the medical justification given by Labor for the proposed standard. Mr. Fay noted that the total AIA project had been financed by Association dues along with contributions from asbestos operators outside of the AIA membership.

3. POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

Mr. Zimmerman suggested that the Association consider developing a position paper based on current operational knowledge showing industry action to protect workers, and that to the best of our information, there is no carcinogenic relationship with gypsum. Mr. Fay noted that MESA's definition of a mineral fiber is all important and that our industry should establish a position that any blanket mineral fiber standard is totally out of order. Mr. Abnee noted the Gypsum Association has some historical data on gypsum which has been used by the membership.

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Mr. Zimmerman commented that the old data of significant value in the past would be of little value at this time in view of the new scientific testing procedures currently in existence to study fibrous materials. Mr. Zimmerman noted that we should develop a current data bank upon which to base future defensive industry testimony if we are to effectively address ourselves to the proposed MESA mineral fiber standard. It was once again reiterated that our current industry knowledge, both mineralogical and medical, is insufficient to support the consensus that there are no fibrous problems with our mineral, especially as relates to the 10 or 15 per cent impurity content of gypsum deposits.

It was the consensus that an industry study program was essential at this time and that it should address itself to collecting industry dust count data that would give both fibrous and silica analysis data. It was the consensus that such a study program should cover both total dust and total fiber analysis to determine: 1) if we have a fiber problem from gypsum or impurities associated with gypsum ore deposits, and 2) on the basis of the collected data, to determine if any of the resulting data can be associated with industrial respiratory health problems. In addition, it was the consensus that each member company review their company's historical experience relative to worker-related illness to determine what, if any, historical medical problems might have to be considered. The individual member company historical medical experience, it was suggested, could be collected by the Association through the development of a questionnaire form. The committee briefly discussed several testing laboratory possibilities, among which were noted the Clayton and Nalsco operations, in addition to a private consulting firm operated by Mr. Jeremiah Lynch.

4. SUMMARY AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Vice Chairman Hoffman summarized the various discussions which called for a recommended industry program to be coordinated through the Gypsum Association in two phases: first, the employment of an environmental consulting firm to conduct an all mineral analysis for fiber and silica in the mining, quarrying, crushing and grinding operations for our industry throughout the United States. The Association would solicit through a questionnaire form, and compile historical member company medical data that could be related to either fiber or silica exposures as the second phase.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Manufacturing and Mining Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that the Gypsum Association interview and hire an environmental consultant firm to conduct an all mineral analysis study covering both fibers and silica, and to collect historical medical data in this same area from the industry through an Association questionnaire form. The following industry personnel were assigned to the Manufacturing & Mining Committee task force to assist the Association in accomplishing the recommended actions of the committee:

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E. R. Kiehl	The Celotex Corporation
H. E. Beard	The Flintkote Company
E. J. Cole	Georgia-Pacific Corporation
A. J. Trommershausen	Kaiser Gypsum & Cement Corporation
J. Volk	National Gypsum Company
J. D. Cornell	United States Gypsum Company

Mr. J. D. Cornell was appointed Chairman of this special committee study group which is to work with the Association staff in the development of the necessary industry questionnaire and interview, hire and work with the selected consultant firm until such time that this project is completed. Mr. Cornell noted that he would work closely with the Association staff and call a meeting of this special study group in the near future to interview and select a consultant laboratory.

Mr. Hoffman thanked everyone in attendance for their input and direction. Mr. Rogers briefly outlined a projects schedule whereby the study committee, consultant and budgetary recommendations would be presented at the next Manufacturing & Mining Committee meeting on October 5, 1976, and then subsequently to the Board for their approval at the semiannual meeting, October 6 and 7. Mr. Rogers noted that this projects schedule would be followed unless expedited handling of this study was necessitated by accelerated MESA action other than that anticipated at this time.

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. Rogers
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Secretary

FJR:nc

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