

August 11, 1978

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT DID
NOT COME FROM THE FILES

Sheldon W. Samuels, Director
Health, Safety and Environment
Industrial Union Department
815 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Re: Health Monitoring Program

Dear Brother Samuels:

As you know, for the past several years the union has been urging the Pittsburgh-Corning Corporation at Port Allegany, Pennsylvania to implement a comprehensive health monitoring program covering workers in the plants who were exposed to inhalation of asbestos in their employment there prior to 1972. In 1972 the company stopped the manufacture of asbestos used for pipe coverings, after several years of production.

We urged that the program be instituted because information we received from the workers and the company indicated that the type of examinations that were essential to detect abnormalities created by the inhalation of asbestos were not being implemented. Chest X-rays and some monitoring was being done.

As a result of our intercession we obtained the voluntary assistance of Dr. Selikoff of Mount Sinai Hospital and his associate Dr. E. Holstein. Many months ago Dr. Holstein prepared a very comprehensive program for monitoring the health of the workers who had been exposed, which was intended to be implemented in cooperation with the medical facilities in Port Allegany.

Although we have had two meetings with Pittsburgh-Corning officials and exchanged much correspondence, to date the

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Sheldon W. Samuels
August 11, 1978
Page 2

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company has refused to go along with the Mount Sinai proposal. They have, however, been in contact with the National Cancer Institute regarding the program. The last we heard from the company, which was by letter on August 4th, management has been conferring with Dr. R. A. Niles, Chief of Staff at the Port Allegany Community Hospital and with Drs. H. J. Wallace and E. M. MacIntyre at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, a cancer center in Buffalo, New York, with a view toward "bringing the company program at Port Allegany into line with recommendations soon to be made by the National Cancer Institute.

The union has no knowledge as just when these recommendations from the National Cancer Institute will be forthcoming. In the last meeting that we held with Dr. Selikoff at which both officials of our union, including myself and officials of the Pittsburgh-Corning Corporation were in attendance Dr. Selikoff pointed out that in view of the passage of time the workers in Port Allegany should be examined just as soon as possible.

A few weeks ago and at our initiative we contacted Mount Sinai Hospital to ascertain whether or not they could make arrangements to examine some of the workers if the union arranged to bring the workers to New York. As a result of the cooperation of Dr. Selikoff and his associates who have been so cooperative in the past, arrangements have been made for comprehensive examinations to be conducted at a clinic in Patterson, New Jersey. These examinations will take place on Sunday, August 13. To facilitate travel to and from Port Allegany the union has chartered a forty-passenger airplane at its expense, that will leave Bradford, Pennsylvania at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday and arrive at Teterboro Airport at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Selikoff will make arrangements to have the workers transported from the airstrip to the clinic. We are hopeful that these examinations will be completed by approximately 5:00 p.m. that day so that the workers can be flown back to Bradford which is the closest airport to Port Allegany. The entire expense of the trip is being underwritten by

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Sheldon W. Samuels

August 11, 1978

Page 2

the international union. We expect to have at least 32 workers on the airplane in addition to representatives from the international staff. If it is necessary for some of the workers to be off work on Sunday to make the trip the union is reimbursing them their wages lost. The individuals making the trip have been selected largely on the basis of the time they were exposed to the inhalation of asbestos and their length of service with the company. We are unable to transport the entire work force. However, we are hopeful that as a result of comprehensive examinations of at least 30 of the workers by experts in the field, we will have some idea of the magnitude of the health problem.

For your general information, you will find enclosed a copy of the letter we received from Mount Sinai which indicates the types of tests that will be given. When we first became involved in the situation at Port Allegar you visited there to confer with the workers. I thought you should know of our concern and that rather than becoming involved in further delay we have taken the foregoing action.

Fraternally yours,

George M. Parker
International President

GMP/k1

Enclosure /

cc: Jacob Clayman /

cc: Irving J. Selikoff, M.D. /

cc: Diane J. Fink, M.D. /

cc: Richard Colasurd, Esq.

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**INDUSTRIAL
UNION
DEPARTMENT
AFL-CIO**



815 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006
Area Code 202 393-5581

Jacob Clayman, President-Secretary-Treasurer

September 7, 1978

The Honorable Joseph S. Ammerman
1723 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT DID
NOT GO TO THE FILES

Dear Congressman Ammerman:

Pursuant to our recent conversation, I am attaching two letters which describe the events leading to the examination of the sample of Port Allegany workers examined for asbestos-related disease.

Dr. Selikoff found that 38, of 38 workers examined, had abnormal x-rays. He suggests that you telephone him for an interpretation of this data.

A number of problems need to be looked at in Port Allegany, including:

Examination of family members (asbestos is brought home on contaminated clothing).

Examination of householders who live close to the plant.

Examination of all present and former employees.

Arrangements for life-time medical surveillance of exposed worker, family and (possibly) adjacent householder.

We have been attempting to develop a self-help program for Port Allegany and similar situations elsewhere. Regretfully, we have been unsuccessful.

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We will continue to report our progress - or lack of progress - to you with the hope that you will assist our work. It is very important for

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VICE PRESIDENTS:

Shelly Appleton
Kenneth F. Blaylock
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Matthew Guman
Alvin E. Hanes

Keith Johnson
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Jacob Shenneman
Carl W. Stuenkel
Joseph P. Tonelli

Shannon J. Wall
Martin J. Ward
Glenn E. Watts

The Honorable Joseph S. Ammerman
September 7, 1978
Page Two

Members of Congress to understand that a nationally coordinated and financed program of medical intervention does not exist. Preventive health, health care of any kind for occupational purposes, is not covered by health insurance. Prior to the onset of clinically significant disease (at which stage it is too late to intervene), workers' compensation has no relevance.

Sincerely,



Sheldon W. Samuels, Director
Health, Safety and Environment

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT DID
NOT HAVE A COVER SHEET

SWS:pcs
opeiu#2afl-cio
cc: George Parker ✓
Dr. Salikoff
Dr. Holstein
Jacob Clayman
Philip Daugherty

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September 20, 1978

Sheldon Samuels, Director
Health, Safety & Environment
Industrial Union Department
815 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT IS
NOT CLASSIFIED

Dear Sheldon:

As you know the Pittsburgh Corning Corporation at the plant that previously operated in Tyler, Texas and at Port Allegany, Pennsylvania have been deeply involved in serious health problems affecting our members as a result of the inhalation of asbestos.

In view of the company's experience and first-hand knowledge of the dangers of asbestos, I was surprised to receive the attached report from International Representative Virgil Ostendorf following his visit to the company's production facility in Sedalia, Missouri. It is almost incomprehensible to believe that a company who has been through a law suit in excess of \$20,000,000 resulting from asbestos would be so careless in its' operation at Sedalia.

We would appreciate it if you would get in touch with the proper government officials so that they would check out the Sedalia plant, with particular reference to the asbestos situation. It appears also that there are countless other dangerous situations in the Sedalia, Missouri plant that should be looked into.

Your cooperation in the foregoing will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

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GMP/fbe
Encl.

cc: Richard M. Colasurd
Dr. Irving J. Selikoff
Virgil Ostendorf

George M. Parker
International President

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M A I L G R A M

September 25, 1978

Time: 1:30 p.m.

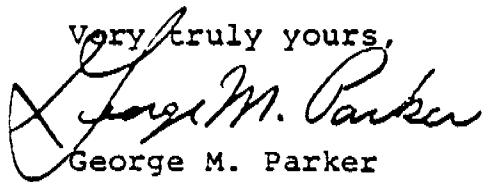
Operator:304

To: Sheldon Samuels, Director
Health, Safety & Environment
Industrial Union Department
815 Sixteenth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

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Anything you can do to speed up a checking of the Sedalia Plant by OSHA will be appreciated. In particular we are interested in a monitoring of the use of asbestos pads in the plant. We are told that management has instituted a new program of storing these pads quite some distance from where they are used resulting in the spreading of asbestos unnecessarily. Workers who have complained are being harassed by plant management.

Very truly yours,



George M. Parker
International President

GMP/lh

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1 4193856687 MGM TDMN TOLEDO OH 09-25 1232P EST

AMERICAN FLINT GLASS WORKERS UNION BY LH
1440 SOUTH BYRNE RD
TOLEDO OH 43614

THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

4193856687 MGM TDMN TOLEDO OH 100 09-25 1232P EST
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SHELDON SAMUELS, DIRECTOR
HEALTH SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT INDUSTRIAL
UNION DEPT

815 16 ST NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON DC 20006

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO SPEED UP A CHECKING OF THE SEDALIA PLANT BY OSHA
WILL BE APPRECIATED. IN PARTICULAR WE ARE INTERESTED IN A MONITORING OF
THE USE OF ASBESTOS PADS IN THE PLANT. WE ARE TOLD THAT MANAGEMENT HAS
INSTITUTED A NEW PROGRAM OF STORING THESE PADS QUITE SOME DISTANCE FROM
WHERE THEY ARE USED RESULTING IN THE SPREADING OF ASBESTOS
UNNECESSARILY. WORKERS WHO HAVE COMPLAINED ARE BEING HARASSED BY PLANT
MANAGEMENT.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

GEORGE W PARKER, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
AMERICAN FLINT GLASS WORKERS UNION

12:32 EST

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