PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT FOS-274

4

FOSECO, INC.

INTER-COMPANY AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

file Republic

TO: W. Vandemark

FROM: T. R. Bernardi

cc: J. Schmidt
W. Gregory
J. Rycerz
J. Vrh

DATE: February 26, 1975

SUBJECT:

I answered an inquiry from Mr. Ken Phillippo, who is the Industrial Safety Engineer with Republic Steel, Chicago. His questions pertained to whether we had asbestos in the hot tops we are supplying his company. As we had agreed that honesty is the best policy, I answered with a positive reply but proceeded to explain the project we have undertaken some two years ago to eliminate asbestos from all our products. I further explained that we were having difficulties in removing all the asbestos content on the 34 square one piece hot top and at this time did not feel that we could reduce the asbestos content any more. I went on to explain that we are presently running a successful trial on a replacement recipe on the 25x27 one piece hot top that they are purchasing from us. However, until we have completed all our testing, we would not proceed with a changeover to our customers using this type of hot top. I told him the 34 square Seal-On system we are testing at his mill is presently being supplied with asbestos free side boards and this is one area we have been able to overcome a series of manufacturing difficulties that have shown up by removing asbestos from our products. Mr. Phillippo held a similar position with Wisconsin Steel and was aware of some of the problems related to making asbestos free hot tops. He referred to the definite decline in quality by two of our competitors and was aware of the burning problems we experienced at Wisconsin Steel. If I read him correctly, the work he is doing is not due to the fact that they have had complaints as to OSHA related violations but as an in-plant safety precaution in order that Republic Steel would be prepared for such a complaint.

I think I left a good impression upon Mr. Phillippo of our earnest desire to resolve the asbestos free products both to him as a customer and to us as a supplier without sacrificing any quality or performance at Republic.

TRB

T. R. Bernardi

TRB/dfw