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Asbestos & Health - GM, Ford, Bendix, Chrysler, AFD



Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: M. Harris

Date: July 11, 1977

From: D. M. Kelleher

Copies: JRM Hutcheson - Asbestos JF Reis - 2-04
D. Poutiatine - 2-04 JP McCarthy - Toledo
EM Fenner - 1-06

Subject: ASBESTOS AND HEALTH MEETINGS - MAJOR CUSTOMERS
(G.E., G.M., FORD, ETC.)

On June 16, Joe McCarthy and I met with the Plant Manager of Chrysler's Friction Materials Plant and on June 17, Ed Fenner, Jim Reis, Joe McCarthy and I met with a group at Ford and later a group at General Motors.

At General Motors, Bill Krebs who holds a similar position to Bill Reitze or Dr. Kotin, said he had nothing against asbestos fiber that was "bound in". He did not want to see friable or loose asbestos fiber in their operations. The goal of the meeting was to determine how we could most effectively convince G.M. that asbestos could be handled safely. It was their recommendation that we contact the top management of individual Divisions and review the situation on a Division by Division basis. We are getting the names of the proper people to contact within each Division. In the near future we will arrange for and conduct the meetings.

The meeting at Ford was with an Executive Engineer and a group drawn together to determine if Ford should develop an asbestos free automobile. After the presentation and question and answer period, we were asked if we would make a presentation jointly with Bendix and Boling's group to a group of Senior Managers in September. Ford wants to continue using asbestos containing products. They don't believe semi-metallics are necessarily the answer and do not want to spend the time and money to redesign their braking system.

Chrysler's problem was primarily a labor problem. They recently had a two week strike. One of the major issues was asbestos and health. We are sending the Plant Manager our Employee Relations literature.

We will keep you informed on our progress with these and other major accounts.

D. M. Kelleher

DMK:mh



Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: J.A. McKinney

1-03

Date: January 23, 1979

From: J.E. Connor

2-13

Copies: D. Poutiatine

2-13

Subject: AFD SALES MEETING - MEXICO

During our meeting you asked us to write to you with our suggestions for handling the Asbestos and Health problem.

On my return to Denver I learned that another one of our asbestos customers had given up. GAF announced that they were shutting down their St. Louis Plant and would no longer manufacture Asbestos Cement Cooling Tower Fill. During the last quarter of 1978, they had discontinued their Asbestos Cement Corrugated Sheet Line at St. Louis.

Although we hate to see our customers give up, we realize some of them will do this over the next few years.

We will do everything in our power to help our customers stay in the asbestos products business. What will help us most is the support of our own Using Divisions.

Nothing will hurt our cause more than for our customers to see our own Divisions going out of asbestos using products.

Here is where you said you would help us, and here is where we need your support.

I suggest you attend some Pipe and BSD Sales and/or Marketing meetings and let the troops know what our philosophies are on asbestos and asbestos products, and what our strategies are for the future of these products.

We will continue to carry the J-M message both to our outside customers, as well as with the Using Divisions, however the message coming from you and from the top will make our job complete.

In the end, if our customers see J-M promoting asbestos products aggressively in the market place, they will get the complete message, and will be more reluctant to give up the fight.

Again, thank you for attending and participating in our meeting. We got the message loud and clear as to how J-M stands on asbestos and asbestos products. We will carry the message into our market place.


J.E. Connor

JEC:mh