FILE NAME: Allied Signal Bendix (ASB)

DATE: 1974 May 8

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Memorandum

Date May 8, 1974 Letter No

To R. D. Dexter

#1704

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT BDX 41

From James W. Armstrong

Subject Epidemiology Study - Asbestos

On May 6, 1974, the writer was involved in a meeting with Dr. George Wright who is currently on retainer by the John-Manville Corporation as a medical expert in the diagnosis and control of asbestos caused cancer. Dr. Wright is known worldwide and is equal to Dr. Selikoff as a noted expert in his field of specialty.

During this meeting Dr. Wright indicated that the term "asbestos" includes chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite. He also indicated that The Bendix Corporation, Friction Materials Division, was the only existing operation he was aware of that has consistently used only chrysotile since the plant began in 1929. As a result, he would be most interested in conducting a study on the operations in order to trace the histories of the various employees and their exposure to this asbestos material.

As there has never been a medical study conducted where employees were exposed only to chrysotile, he indicated the medical community had more than a passing interest. As a result, he was confident that funds to support such a study could be provided without active participation by The Bendix Corporation.

The writer has reviewed the possibility of this study with Charlie Menz, who is in general agreement that further exploration with Dr. Wright would be in order. With the current impact with OSHA which does not make any distinguishment between the various types of asbestos, a study of this type could have very beneficial affects for The Bendix Corporation. First, if the study does conclude what we suspect; that after 45 years of experience we do not have a single case of lung disease caused by asbestos, we would have the backup data needed to refute any future workmen's compensation claims as well as further OSHA citations. Additionally, if the study is accepted by the medical community, we could even have the grounds to exempt friction material manufacturers from the OSHA Standards.

On the negative side we could have publicity and employee concern at the division as a result of having a study conducted. Secondly, it is possible, although quite remote, that an expert medical team could find lung disease of which we are not presently knowledgeable.

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Dr. Wright would like to meet with appropriate Bendix management some time in the early part of June to further explore the possibilities of this study. Will you please advise what approvals are necessary in order to proceed with this project.

JWA:dsh
CC: J. M. O'Hare