

Mr. D. W. Ladd - New York

July 19, 1963

William A. Lutz - Newark

Mr. H. D. Durah - Toledo

Mr. A. J. Pearson - Newark

Mr. J. F. Vyverberg - New York

HEALTH HAZARDS OF FIBER GLASS

On July 17 while inspecting Chilled Water Insulation, a problem was called to my attention by the insulation foreman of Polytherm Insulation Company who was working on the CBS Studios job. This man is a member of the New York Insulation Workers Local, and he told me that he was refusing to use OCF PF-335 F unfaced. His men were complaining that this product was a health hazard due to the excessive dusting which occurred when PF-335F unfaced was applied to ducts. He was using instead Pittsburgh Plate Glass Textura-Fine as it was relatively dust free. He went on to tell me that in recent months seven members of the New York Insulation Workers Local have died, supposedly due to lung cancer. The Local has sponsored autopsies for these men, and according to the stories, they have found fiber glass in their lungs in each case. The Local has evidently hired a physician as a consultant on this matter, and they are trying to gather facts to support some type of legal action. There have been statements made in recent Local union meetings in New York to the effect that any man would die of lung cancer after working 15 years with fiber glass.

You may already be aware of this situation, but I thought I would let you know the gossip that is going around. Also, I was somewhat surprised to see the usage of PF-335 F unfaced as it was my impression that this product was not to be sold unfaced. I did not tell this man from Polytherm Insulation my name, and all he knows is that I am from OCF. I did, however, explain to him that we had men who worked in the Newark Plant for 25 years without any lung problems and that our medical director had told us there was no problem due to exposure to glass fibers.

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