PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
NO. 4465.0

[redacted]

FIBERGLAS

Intra-company correspondence

to K. O. Preston - Bloomington

from Gerald E. Devitt - Toledo 11

date October 13, 1970

subject CHEMBEST RESPIRATOR PROGRAM

cc: H. F. Janecek - Bloomington
J. L. Konzen, M.D. - Toledo 11
F. O'N. Brisley - Toledo 12
J. J. Young - Toledo 12

Attached is a copy of the suggested respirator program. As I'm sure you are aware, we look upon this as a temporary measure until positive engineering and process controls can be installed.

If there are any questions, or we can further assist you, do not hesitate to contact us.

Gerald E. Devitt
Chief Industrial Hygienist

GED/dsl

Attachment

[redacted]

RESPIRATOR PROGRAM

BLOOMINGTON PLANT

Your respirator program is fundamentally divided into two areas because of the types of exposure against which you are protecting your employees.

The urethane operation "west of the tracks" is to be protected against by the use of "nusiance" type respirators, of which you have already received samples. Although these units are advertised as "single service", many firms use them for longer periods of time, and the dust exposures in these areas of your plant should permit this activity. Essentially, we are suggesting that these units be issued on a "as needed" basis, and several days service should be gotten from them. This should aid the cost picture greatly.

It must be pointed out that these 3M masks are essentially useless against toxic materials, such as asbestos, and therefore their use must be confined to protection against nuisance dust, such as those found in the foam area.

The program in the foam area should basically consist of informing the supervisors and employees as to the need for the use of these respirators until such time as the proper engineering controls can be installed. Then once this respirator program is installed, enforcement should be done by the line supervisors. Employees resistance towards these masks should be minimal as the masks are light, relatively comfortable, and easy to breathe through. Since these units are disposable, maintenance is essentially non-existence.

The respirators and program for ~~we~~ the asbestos operation is more complex than those for the foam program. It is necessary that the employees using these units be both informed and impressed with the need for the proper use and maintenance of these respirators. Before each day's use, the rubber parts, such as the elastic straps, should be checked to see that they are pliable and in good condition. The valve of the respirator should be examined and the entire unit should be tested for tightness. Filters should be examined and replaced as necessary. In making a decision as to the need for the replacement of filters, the amount of resistance to breathing through the device when it is actually put on in normal air is probably the best indication of all. Mechanical filters such as those in the Dustflo respirator recommended that do not offer excessive resistance to air flow, and are obviously intact may be considered to at least retain their original efficiency, and in some cases to have improved, and therefore do not need replacing. Each day as the respirator is used by the individual employee to whom it has been assigned, the unit where it contacts the face should be washed with warm water and soap. If such a used unit is to be reissued to another employee then it should be sterilized. Several commercially available solutions are available for this purpose. However, care must be exercised that the sterilizing or disinfecting solution choosen does not damage any parts of the respirator. It should be pointed out to the employee when he is first issued this respirator, that in order to be effective in its protective capacity, the unit must be worn tightly fitted against the face. They should be informed that if the respirator fits too loosely and air gaps are allowed to exist, then this

respirator will actually increase the hazard to the employee as it will trap some of the asbestos fibers and almost insure that they will ultimately be inhaled by the worker.

We would also suggest that one member of plant supervision or management be held responsible for the basic operation and issuance of these respirators. As part of this duty the respirator supervisor should see that each employee who has been issued such a unit, is given a clean, dry location which is relatively dust free and not in direct sunlight for the storage of the individual's respirator. Also each employee should be issued his own respirator, and by the same token he should be held accountable for this unit as long as working in operations which require respiratory protection. Certainly, part of this respirator program is the instruction to the wearer to insure that he is aware of the purpose, use and care of this personal protective equipment which has been issued to him, and the fact that he has a real responsibility for his own good to maintain this unit in good and operable condition.

Additional aid for such a respirator program should be forthcoming from the supplier of these units. By the same token, if Medical Services can further assist you, we would be happy to do so.

10/13/70