



Division of Community Medicine

May 12, 1971



Mr. Herbert L. Levine, President
Sprayed Mineral Fiber Manufacturers Assoc.,
Ambestompruy Corporation
605 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

The last weeks have been very distressing. Checking numerous complaints, we find that spraying of asbestos insulation has almost reverted to the uncontrolled status of a year ago. Mr. Rorer at the Department of Air Resources states he is virtually powerless to alter the situation; show cease orders and summonses end months later in small fines, apparently shrugged off as a business expense.

I had supported the position that sprayed mineral fiber fireproofing could be allowed to continue in urban areas because effective controls had been identified. This position was predicated upon the expectation that such controls would be instituted and continued. This has not happened. The awareness of the availability of control measures is no substitute for their application.

At the time I made my position known to the New York City Council, I also stated that if controls were not utilized, then the potential hazard of mineral fiber fireproofing was as great as to warrant its immediate banning, for the safety of both building trades workers and the general public. In view of what has happened, I would strongly urge that such a ban be enforced.

I am aware of the efforts you personally have made to ensure appropriate self-policing by industry. I regret that your efforts did not succeed.

Sincerely yours,

I. J. Selikoff

Irving J. Selikoff, M.D.
Professor

IJS:sa

cc: Mr. Robert Rickles

Timothy Costello - Peter Brennan