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Form No. 9200

INTER-ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATION

RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, Inc.

No. 68-66

ASBESTOS TEXTILE DIVI.

TO Mr. S. R. Zimmerman, Jr.

Date 2 February 1965

ATTENTION SUBJECT United States Naval Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

Reference our conversation regarding the fact that Turner Brothers had heard the rumor that glass cloth was going to be specified by United States Navy to the exclusion of asbestos cloth, I went to Washington on this matter January 30th and 31st.

A few days before I left I called Mr. William Winblad, the Vice President of Johns-Manville who has been covering Washington for Johns-Manville for the last thirty years. I mentioned the problem to him and he had one of his specialists, a Mr. H. Vincent Reynolds, also go over his Washington contacts to determine if there was any merit in this rumor. Before I left for Washington, Mr. Reynolds told me that he could find no evidence of glass cloth being specified rather than asbestos cloth.

On Tuesday we had lunch with Mr. Carl Gnam of the Miscellaneous Metals & Minerals Division of the Department of Commerce. Mr. Gnam is responsible for the stockpiling of asbestos fiber for the Government and is familiar with everyone in the Navy Department who has anything to do with asbestos insulation. Mr. Gnam assured me that, as far as he was concerned, this rumor was not valid as glass cloth could always be used for pipe lagging if it contained less than 2% treatment and he had not heard of any change of attitude of the Navy.

Mr. Shirey and I then contacted the following personnel in the Navy Department and, for a matter of record, I am going to list their room numbers and telephone numbers:

Mr. William Shetterly, Code 634C4, Room 3214
Mr. H. P. Walker, Room 4714, Phone 64919
Mr. Al Munkreis, Room 3730, Phone 61010

Mr. Munkreis is in the insulation section and is very familiar with our specifications. He told me that he knew of no switch in specifications from asbestos to glass cloth and he would be in a position to know if this had taken place. He indicated that asbestos cloth per se as pipe lagging was going to be handled by Mr. J. Puglisi in the office of Mr. Leon Birnbaum, but that Mr. Puglisi was presently in a meeting which would tie him up for the afternoon and he was also leaving the next day on an assignment. Mr. Munkreis said that possibly it would not do any good to contact Mr. Puglisi as he had only been on the job three days and knew nothing about asbestos cloth. This



seems to have been standard operating procedure for the Navy for the last thirty years that I have contacted them as it seems to be "taboo" to have anybody handle a product which he knows anything at all about.

I also tried to contact the head of the cable section of the Navy Department and found that the two gentlemen responsible for this section were on a trip. For the matter of record though, Mr. I. Acosta is the head of the cable section and his assistant is Mr. D. Weiner. They are located in Room 4716, telephone number 61787.

I do believe that I got the real answer to our problem when I called on Mr. F. D. Rupprecht of Armstrong Contracting & Supply in Baltimore. This company does a tremendous amount of shipyard work and Navy work in insulating vessels at Bethlehem Steel, Sparrows Point, Maryland. I asked Mr. Rupprecht about glass versus asbestos and he said that the contractor at all times has been able to use glass cloth as lagging, but that his company would never use anything but asbestos. The reason for this is that the people who are doing the insulation work are at an extremely high hourly rate and they can tear asbestos cloth by hand very readily before they wrap it around the steam line. Glass cloth will not tear properly at all and would have to be cut and, with the high wage rates, Mr. Rupprecht said this would not be economically feasible.

I would assume that with the information we got at the Navy Department, and also from Mr. Rupprecht, that possibly this rumor is not correct.

JOHN A. BROWN, JR.
sab

cc: M. G. Scowcroft
D. E. Shirey