MAY 6 1967

Research and Engineering Center
May 5, 1967

A. C. Smith

ASBESTOS TEXTILE PLANT VISITS
COMMENTS FROM DRS. KNOX AND HOLMES

Attached memorandum lists comments from Drs. Knox and Holmes to me - made primarily at Marshville.

In addition, the memorandum includes their comments to you as you verbally relayed it to me.

I'd appreciate any comments you care to make to me - including corrections, additions, or deletions.

Do you wish this memorandum circulated? If so, to whom should copies be sent?

E. M. Tanner

EMT:MA

Research and Engineering Center
May 5, 1967

MEMORANDUM

COMMENTS FROM DR. KNOX AND DR. HOLMES

The following comments were made to me by Dr. Knox or Dr. Holmes during our tours of the textile operations at Marshville on April 12 to April 14. These comments were descriptive of their operations.

(1) Any person feeding asbestos fiber into a machine must wear a respirator as condition of employment.

(2) Fiber is never handled in open containers or trucks. It is always transported in impervious bags with zipper closure. All equipment, where fiber is dumped from these bags, is hooded in such a fashion that the bag is under the hood and operator is outside of the hood. ✓

(3) Compared to cards in their plant, our cards are 3 to 5 times as dirty. Their cards are vacuumed frequently to keep the "fly" from clinging to the machine. ✓

(4) Their fiber is wetted with an oil emulsion solution during the fiber blending process, and yarn passes over a wetting roll prior to weaving on the looms. J-M Sales people are convinced that cloth made with wetted yarns, due to its open appearance, cannot be sold in the U.S. ✓

(5) Our looms operate at a weaving speed of approximately 130 ft./minute--their looms operate at 100 ft./minute. All their looms have dust collection underneath the machine, as well as above the machine. ✓

(6) Dust collection on their textile equipment is more extensive with better results compared to our plants.

(7) By law, the British Asbestos Textile Industry is not allowed to return air from the dust collectors to the factory; British companies are endeavoring to have this law changed, but are certain that if the law is modified, secondary filtration will be required on the return air. ✓

(8) They perform dust counts in their factory at least once every two months, and will sample the more hazardous operations once every six weeks. ✓

0008 0938

(9) They equip their ring-type spinning frames with a vacuum system with an intake pipe behind each strand, to take away the strand in case of breakage. This prevents whipping of a broken strand with subsequent major increase of dust in front of the spinning frame. They also partially hood their frames to prevent dust from the operation being inhaled by the operator.

It was agreed that we will take the dust samples in our Manville Asbestos Textile Plant in accordance with their Membrane Filter Technique. Samples taken by this technique will be counted by the Research Center and then will be sent to Dr. Holmes for count verification.

A. C. Smith notes added comments to him by Drs. Knox or Holmes as follows:

(1) Any person feeding fiber into a machine should, in addition to his respirator, be equipped with company furnished and maintained coveralls and gloves. ✓

(2) All hoods over fiber feed stations should be of uniform design throughout the company. The feed station should be equipped with a turntable on which the operator places a bag of fiber, turns it under the hood and then opens and empties it. ✓

(3) Every effort should be made to eliminate handling broken bags of fiber. If they must be handled, the men should wear respirators, coveralls, and gloves. ✓

(4) All cleaning of machines, floors and building should be done by vacuum cleaners--brooms or brushes must not be used. Major cleanups should be done during non-production hours with workers properly equipped with respirators, coveralls, and gloves. ✓

(5) It is essential that management have a positive attitude toward dust collection and plant housekeeping. The goal should be - no dust or fibers escaping from the process. ✓

(6) It is essential that all workers have a complete understanding of the hazards of asbestos. It should be explained to them by management. ✓

(7) Dr. Knox, knowing of our search for a Medical Director, commented that the prime requisite for a candidate, is administrative ability--he should be an excellent administrator.

(8) Dr. Knox's comments on the Johns-Manville position paper on asbestos included the following:

a) Unrealistic - no scientist associated with problem could agree with the conclusions.

b) The paper as written misinforms our people

c) Only antique data was used. No reference was made to modern findings. This is ethically wrong.

d) The paper contains misquotes.

e) A proper paper cannot escape the scientific approach.

E. M. Penner

EMP:MA