

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

WV-01180

February 26, 1956

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Dr. James Eusby
Tuberculosis Control
Officer, Wayne County
216 South York
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Dr. Eusby:

Following up our phone conversation of yesterday, I enclose the details of the problem with which we are confronted.

In the past, and at the present time, the Aramco Laboratories have done research on our basic glass fibers and on combinations of glass fibers with Polyester resins and calcium carbonate. The earlier researches were instituted about 1939 or 1940, at which time glass fibers of various diameters and lengths were sent there for investigation.

The smallest ones (and the only ones with which we are concerned) were from 1 to 6 micra in diameter. These are so-called Aerosol fibers. While no work was ever published by Dr. Leroy Gardner, who conducted these studies, the verbal and written interval reports which he submitted to the company were uniformly favorable and indicated that glass fibers were innocuous and inert - and so we thought until the fall of 1955, when it came to our attention that Dr. G. J. H. Schepers had published articles in the Archives of Industrial Medicine which would indicate that glass fibers had a toxic affect, producing pneumoconiosis similar to asbestosis.

On closer inspection, it is found that this phenomenon is produced only by glass fibers of from 1 to 6 micra in diameter and no greater than 50 micra in length. Incidentally, I understand that when the length approaches the diameter, no change is found. The animals described in the articles were subjected to exposure in a dust chamber and intra-tracheal injections for a period of three years. At the end of the second year, no changes were found in the sacrificed animals. Dr. Gardner discontinued his work after two years, but, by mistake, some of the animals were allowed to continue to survive in the dust chambers. At the end of the third year these animals were sacrificed and histologic slides of the pulmonary tissue were mounted and filed away.

When Dr. Schepers came to the Foundation in 1954, he decided to "close the files". Thereupon, he deluged the Archives of Industrial Medicine with small articles about various products, including Fiberglass, and one of Owens-Illinois Glass Company called Kaylo.

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Dr. James Busby
February 28, 1956

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Now it is self-evident that this condition could scarcely be duplicated in industry. In the first place, the fibers are not cut nor milled to this length. In various fabrications where you might find fibers of this length, the quantities would be indeed minute and the exposure consequently of the lowest conceivable degree. Unfortunately, Dr. Schepers did not qualify his articles, and to the casual reader, or for excerpts for medical-legal purposes, the articles are very unfavorable to us.

Of course we anticipate starting some new basic fiber studies, but as you can see, it will be at least three years in completion. We anticipate no difficulty in qualifying the statements that have been made. As I told you by phone, I thought that a statement from you might be helpful in view of the fact that you read our x-rays and repeat x-rays of employees for a period of from 1943 to 1951 when you left Licking County. I believe that your conclusions on the basis of those x-rays would have been that the people exposed to fibrous glass, employed at the Newark plant, apparently did not contract any type of pneumoconiosis as a result of exposure. You certainly read many repeat films of people employed in our Aerocer division, the one under question.

Any statement that you may care to make would be greatly appreciated by us.

Very truly yours,

OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS CORPORATION

Dr. C. S. Bishop

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CSB/hrs