Inter Office

Engineering and Research Staff

May 13; 1977

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Subject: Raybestos-Manhattan Asbestos Meeting

A presentation was made by Raybestos-Manhattan (RM) personnel, May 11, 1977, regarding their company's position on asbestos. It was stated that their overall development programs are directed towards elimination of asbestos in their friction materials (RM policy statement attached). The RM personnel also indicated that they commissioned R. F. Weston, Inc., to study the technical feasibility and economic impact on reducing the fiber count from the current level of 2 fibers/cc. The report, which RM indicated was presented to OSHA, stated that the proposed standard of 0.5 fibers/cc was not feasible for asbestos manufactured products. I have requested a copy of the report from RM. It also was stated that OSHA has commissioned Consad Research Corp. to re-examine the asbestos standards. We should determine if Consad personnel have contacted Ford, if not perhaps Ford personnel should contact the Consad group.

Comments made by RM personnel indicated the following.

- No known replacement for asbestos and at least 5 to 8 years to develop production non-asbestos brake linings. Semi-metallic linings are not as yeat suitable for customer usage. (Design changes that may be necessary to utilize new materials was not addressed.)

- Replacing asbestos with glass fiber looks promising for manual transmission clutch facings.

- Reasonable degree of confidence in replacing or eliminating asbestos in most automatic transmission friction elements, however, some elements may be difficult to replace directly with new materials without some modification to the transmission.

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At the conclusion of the PM meeting, it was suggested by Supply Staff that a "Ford only" meeting be held, June 15, 1977 in which we (A. Anderson and myself) present an Asbestos Overview to various personnel involved with asbestos containing friction materials.

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