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WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 20, 1944

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MEMORANDUM

TO: WPB Regional Directors and Production Urgency Committees in Areas where Asbestos Textile Plants are located.

FROM: Fred E. Sinclair, Chief *Sinclair*
 Analysis, Reports, and Services Branch
 Procurement Policy Division

SUBJECT: Manpower for Asbestos Textile Industry

We have been advised by the Clerk, Asbestos & Fibrous Glass Division, WPB, that the production of asbestos textiles has become a critical bottleneck in direct military programs. Until recently, production has been limited by the amount of asbestos spinning fibre available. The limitation at present, however, is manpower. Facilities and fibre are available for the production of from 200 to 300 tons more asbestos textiles than manpower permits.

Asbestos textiles are a non-substitutable component in all combat vessels from battleships to Army ducks, as well as in the 2 1/2-ton truck program, the rubber program, the rayon program, and the plane program; in fact they cut across the entire mechanized field, military and industrial. The largest single claimant is the U. S. Navy. In the face of this production decline, the Navy has entered requirements for a 20% increase in roving for Navy cable, and an additional 100,000 yards of asbestos cloth. Planned expansion of the copper wire program will be measured in terms of our ability to produce asbestos roving.

This critical condition in asbestos textiles has been recognized by PEC and cooperation of the Army, Navy, and ARCO has been obtained through regular channels for assistance at local and Area levels in recruiting manpower. Advice has gone out from these respective Services to the field requesting full cooperation. In addition, a Program Determination has been granted to give asbestos textile machinery a green light where such additional machinery will aid production without increasing manpower.

In spite of the importance of asbestos textiles as a component, the industry is not a large one. The firms involved and their locations are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Asbestos Manufacturing Co. | Huntington, Indiana |
| Asbestos Textile Company | North Brookfield, Mass. |
| Aston-Hill Mfg. Company | Scott's Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. |

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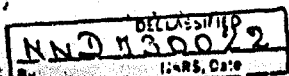
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Asbestos Textiles - Labor - Problems

J. Franklin Burke & Co., Inc.	Northfield, Vermont
Carolina Asbestos Co.	Davidson, North Carolina
Perodo & Asbestos Co.	P. O. Box 111, New Brunswick, N. J.
Fibre & Metal Products Co.	206 Downey Ave., Downey, Cal.
The Garlock Packing Co.	432 Main St., Palmyra, N. Y.
General Asbestos & Rubber Div. Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.	North Charleston, South Carolina
Greene, Tweed & Co.	North Wales, Pennsylvania
Johns-Manville Corporation	Manville, New Jersey
Kearby & Mattison Co.	Ambler, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Asbestos Co.	2010 N. 10th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Rockbestos Products Corp.	New Haven, Connecticut
Southern Asbestos Company	Charlotte, North Carolina
Union Asbestos & Rubber Co.	Cicero, Illinois
U. S. Asbestos Division Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.	Manheim, Pennsylvania
U. S. Rubber Company	Hogansville, Georgia

The Industry Division has requested that we make these facts known to the Production Urgency Committees so their cooperation may be secured in obtaining the necessary manpower through priority ratings for labor which will reflect the importance of the asbestos textile program.

We shall be glad to furnish any additional information regarding this matter.



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