

SUBJECT: Asbestos Exposure at Pittsburgh Corning Corporation

DATE: October 19, 1964

1) On this date, Mr. Byrl Stout, Manager of Manufacturing, Pittsburgh Corning Corporation, was brought to my office by Mr. Clyde Ruddick. Mr. Stout came to the General Office on 1 September from Port Allegany where he was the plant manager. He replaced a gentleman who died of a coronary.

2) An article in a New York paper on the 12th of October, Subject: "A Rare Carcinoma Believed on the Rise--A Study of Asbestos Workers Shows a high Incidence." (A copy of this is attached.) This is what prompted his visit to this office.

3) Potential asbestos exposure occurs at two plants, Port Allegany, Pennsylvania and Tyler, Texas. There are about 10 employees at each plant assumed to be exposed. The exposure occurs during the cutting of unibestos which is a pipe insulating material made by combining ground asbestos which has been received from Africa in burlap bags in the unground state with a filler composed of clay and diatomaceous earth and a binder of water glass. The approximate percentages of each of the finished products are 75% asbestos; 20% filler and 5% binder.

4) The unibestos process and plants were acquired from UNARCO in mid 1962. The dust control procedures were very poor. This is of importance only at the Tyler plant is concerned because these employees had worked for UNARCO. Port Allegany plant was a new plant opened in February of 1964.

5) The Kettering Laboratory, University of Cincinnati, performed environmental studies at the Tyler, Texas plant. A copy of this study is attached.

6) The Pittsburgh Corning Corporation consists of three plants. The Tyler plant with 60 employees--produces only unibestos; the Port Allegany plant with 450 employees--produces unibestos, glass block and a couple of other products; the Sedalia plant in Missouri located about 100 miles from Crystal City--produces foam glass products and has 200 employees. The Pittsburgh Corning Research Center is located just north of Pittsburgh in Plum Borough.

7) Various factors associated with both asbestosis and mesothelioma were discussed. It was suggested, assuming that dust control procedures were adequate, no asbestos potential exists at Port Allegany. However, since the Tyler employees had been exposed to asbestos under less favorable conditions, there is a potential of future disability in this group. It was further suggested that periodic surveys of the workers environment be made, i.e., every two years would

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be desirable for medical, legal purposes. If insignificant dust exposures exist at Port Allegany and Tyler, it can be assumed that if asbestosis develops, it had resulted from previous exposures. This is an important factor in determining utilization of second injury fund in Workmen's Compensation.

8) Mr. Stout invited me to visit all three of the Pittsburgh Corning plants. I advised that I would work out with him after my schedule with the Coatings and Resins and Glass plants visits had been determined. He further suggested that I make arrangements for environmental surveys with either the Industrial Hygiene Foundation or Kettering Laboratory for some time after 1 January 1965.

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