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FLINTKOTE

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO MR. J. C. HARKNESS
MR. J. C. MURPHY

DATE JUNE 30, 1978

FROM A. R. HOOKER, JR.

SUBJECT ASBESTOS

Several plants within your respective divisions have in the recent past or are currently using asbestos fibre. This letter is to alert you (in turn you may want to alert your works managers concerned) of forthcoming action to be taken by the Health Education and Welfare Department of the United States Government.

Recently, HEW Secretary Califano issued an extraordinary statement announcing steps he would take to inform doctors, workers and others "about the increased health risks of asbestos exposure." He said, "asbestos is one of the most dangerous and insidious substances in the workplace." HEW has sent advisory letters to 400,000 physicians and a major public information campaign aimed at workers and others exposed to asbestos will commence in the near future. It is important to note that the Secretary emphasized high worker exposure "in the past" and particularly in shipyards. He also stressed the greatly increased risk of lung cancer among smokers. His action resulted from Defense Department (Navy) failure to identify World War II shipyard workers who might have been subject to excessive asbestos exposure as a result of pressures exerted by the Health Research Group, a Nader public interest organization. Of relevance was the federal government's financial involvement in the settlement of the much publicized Tyler, Texas suit. The Califano announcement may have serious effect on public attitudes toward asbestos usage. Certainly it will encourage further action by regulatory agencies for controls on asbestos. HEW has now announced that newspapers, radio and TV will be used to warn the public, and particular workers who have been exposed to asbestos, of the possible affect on their health. We believe the first effort will be in the form of "Soap Opera" spot radio programs. One dialogue which I have heard is between three men, one who is disabled and two others who are being warned by the disabled to "check out" their coughs with a doctor. I understand this will spread to TV and newspapers.

In conjunction therewith, or at least coincidental thereto, ABC Television has scheduled on July 14 a documentary on asbestos.

I submit the following thoughts for whatever help they may be in any needed response to comments or concern raised by this forthcoming media action:

> That excessive exposure to asbestos dust presents a risk to health is an established fact. Unregulated exposure to asbestos during World War II coupled with long latency periods for the development of disease provided a timeliness to certain asbestos-health studies which were to receive extensive and frequently exaggerated treatment by special interest groups and the news media. Exposure levels of asbestos dust in the past and particularly during the World War II era are simply not related to present regulated conditions.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 11040

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 41 HOOKER 4-13-84

ARH:dk
cc: Mr. M. C. Carpenter - Stamford
Mr. W. H. Mortonson - Rutherford
Mr. W. Harvey - Los Angeles
Mr. S. Weiss - Rochelle Park