OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS INTRA-COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

To: J. Marshall Briley - Toledo

From: John Vyverberg - New York

Subject: Priority Attention
Minutes of Asbestos Workers
Environmental Health

Date: March 7, 1968

cc:
F. Blauvelt - New York
W. W. Boeschenstein - Toledo
B. E. Boyd - Toledo
E. J. Detgen - Washington, D
J. L. Konzen, M.D. - Toledo
Del Ladd - New York
G. O. Mabry - Toledo
J. E. Murphy - Toledo
Gen. Lauris Norstad - Toledo
L. W. Saxby - Toledo
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Robert Knight - Sherman, Ster and Wright

bcc:
Marshall D. Burch - Toledo
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Ben S. Wright - Toledo

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
DOW-1171

The Report of Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Asbestos Workers has been obtained and reviewed. Adverse statements were made by Dr. Selikoff and President Hutchinson with regard asbestos and other insulations including fibrous glass duct liners and duct systems.

Excerpts from the minutes are attached for your information. The most important paragraphs are marked for your study.

I wish to emphasize that the accusations made by Dr. Selikoff and Mr. Hutchinson against fibrous glass duct liners and duct systems involve the potential adverse effects on occupants of schools, office buildings, hospitals, etc. In the past, complaints have been confined to the worker or applicator. Also, claim is made that since fibers are being manufactured of smaller diameter than ever before and with various binders, it could take 25 to 30 years duration after exposure to fully determine possible adverse effects (as was demonstrated in Dr. Selikoff's asbestos studies).

After our preliminary discussion on this subject, you advised sending copies of these minutes to other corporate officials for their information and comment. We are proceeding in accordance with the attached program. Your further comments and direction will be appreciated.

John Vyverberg /cs

JV:cs
Attach.

DEFENDANT'S EXHIBIT
OCR-161

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
1160

EXHIBIT
111

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OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

(Overall Activity plus Specific Activity on Duct Liners and Duct Systems)

I. Medical Research Studies (Dr. Jon Konzen)

Make thorough review of current available medical studies and research pertaining to health aspects of glass fibers. Accelerate activity on medical research in process. Determine and initiate new research studies if required to cope with existing problems and threats, either as an individual company or through industry approach. Get true facts. Determine without question that fibrous glass in any form is not injurious to the lungs even under severe concentration conditions of inhalation over a prolonged period of time of the finest diameter fibers as normally manufactured with current binders.

II. Disseminate the Facts - Conduct Seminars (JFV and FHE)

A. Supply branches with required medical research information and testimonial information to be used when required to protect our interests with school boards, Government agencies, architects, engineers, etc.

B. Through NIMA hold regional meetings with Insulation Contractors.

1) Point up difference between asbestos and fibrous glass:

a) Asbestos is toxic and inhalation can cause lung disease. Products can be handled safely. Advise how. (Kaylo contains 12-14 percent asbestos.)

b) Fibrous glass is inert and not toxic. It can cause irritation, but there is no medical evidence to date to indicate that it is a health hazard. There are hundreds of workers who have been exposed to fibrous glass particles for periods ranging from 20 to 30 years without manifesting any form of reaction or disease from such exposure. All medical research to date indicates that fibrous glass is not injurious to the lungs. However, as with any dusts, workmen should not be subjected to possible inhalation of excessive quantities of fibrous glass dust.

2) Review health and safety practices (See "C" below), i.e., when wear respirators, keep dust to minimum, recommended practices re fabrication, application, mixing of cements, spraying, blowing, stripping of insulation - don't smoke, etc. Workmen should be encouraged to protect themselves from the inhalation of excessive quantities of <u>any</u> airborne dust.

3) Detection methods of health problems - Disease recognition.

4) Physical Exams - Pre-employment and annual. (At present, union will not agree.)

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5) Better prevention suggestions, precautionary methods, personal protective equipment, ventilating and dust collecting equipment, good housekeeping.

6) Workmen's Compensation, insurance, case problems, legal obligations, expert testimony, procedures, etc.

C. Issue pamphlets on recommended Health and Safety Practices for handling and applying:

1) Thermal insulation products containing asbestos (Kaylo, etc.) and
2) Mineral fiber insulations including fibrous glass.
Note: Pamphlets to be issued by NIMA will be completed by April 15, 1968.

D. Co-operate with all parties involved to obtain additional knowledge and improve conditions for the benefit of the worker, i.e. Asbestos Workers Union; Dr. Irving Selikoff; Dr. C. Cooper, University of California; Dr. Cralley, USPHS; Dr. Kushner and Dr. Laskin, Univer. of N.Y.; National Cancer Institute; IDCNA, etc. Keep communication lines open.

A program of health safety practices supported jointly by contractors and local union is recommended for each area. Pre-employment and annual physicals and chest x-rays are recommended for each worker. Information should not be used by workers or union to initiate workmen's compensation cases or litigation against the contractor or manufacturer. Likewise, the contractors should not use the information gained to discharge any worker who might be partially disabled.

III. General

A. Follow and influence legislation, i.e., Occupational Safety and Health Acts. (HR14816 and S2864) (EJD)

B. Find substitute for asbestos in Kaylo. (DL)

C. Restate procedures and policies for handling of complaints, obtaining supporting data, workman's compensation claims, and litigation. (JMB ltr.)

IV. Air-Conditioning Systems - Duct Liners and Duct Systems

A. Problem - Asbestos Workers Union launching strong campaign to eliminate all fibrous glass insulations adjacent to air stream in air-conditioning systems. They claim air is polluted with glass fibers in schools, offices, etc. when fibrous glass duct liners are utilized. They want all ducts to be externally insulated. This is a work jurisdiction problem as sheet metal workers install duct liners and duct systems and asbestos workers insulate outside of ducts. It must be admitted that the quality of application of many duct liner jobs has been unsatisfactory.

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B. Proposed Action and Strategy

1) Write standardized industry specifications for duct liner products and application. Publish specs and promote quality workmanship. Disapprove changes in specifications if not in accordance with standard specs. (GH)

2) Get factual dust count studies made by qualified independent laboratories on major jobs where duct liners and/or duct systems installed. Determine without question that there is no fiber erosion or so-called "air pollution" in the rooms. (This is in addition to duct erosion test completed at Granville.) If problem does exist, then take corrective action. (GH and JFV)

3) Attend Industrial Hygiene Foundation meeting for fibrous glass manufacturers to thoroughly review problem and determine if additional medical research studies are required. (Dr. JLK and FHE)

4) Hold meeting with President of Sheet Metal Workers Union. Explain situation and determine initiative he might plan to take on a union basis to correct problem. (JFV and GH)

5) Meet with President of Building Trades Council in Washington to review situation and get his recommendations. (JFV)

6) Meet with President of Asbestos Workers Union. Present all available engineering and medical information plus standardized industry application specs to be promoted. Review products introduced over last ten years to increase work opportunities of asbestos worker. Point up factually the volume of duct work available to the total. Put problem in perspective and see if union trend and objective on this subject can be discouraged. Point out that continued problems of magnitude in this area might encourage industrial insulation manufacturers to focus their future product developments into other fields of construction which would not be beneficial to the Asbestos Workers Union. (JFV)

7) Consider Dr. Selikoff as possible consultant to advise OCF or industry. Consider a grant to study problem.

8) Prepare presentation and issue "Position Paper" on subject that is factual and complete in every respect. Present and distribute to school boards, specifying factors, legislators, Government agencies, engineering groups, etc. Take positive approach. (JFV, JM and B/M)

JFV
3/7/68

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