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UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY
1000 East Northwest Highway/Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
RESEARCH CENTER
AREA CODE 312
CYPRESS 9-3381

August 18, 1978

Mr. L. Ellenbogen
Chief Civil Engineer
Sanderson & Porter, Inc.
26 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Ellenbogen:

This is in response to your letter of July 28, 1978, requesting information on potential health hazards from RED TOP FIRECODE Plaster. The job in question was constructed in 1967. Although we have no samples or other confirmation at this time, that the United States Gypsum Company product, RED TOP FIRECODE Plaster was used in your construction, we submit the following to assist you.

RED TOP FIRECODE Plaster is a lightweight, insulative, fire resistant, but tough, gypsum plaster cement which was manufactured under Factory Inspection and Label Service of Underwriter's Laboratories. The composition, in place, consists primarily of rehydrated gypsum plaster cement, expanded vermiculite or perlite aggregate and a small amount of asbestos.

The insulating property and strength of FIRECODE Plaster is provided by the rehydrated gypsum plaster cement ($CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$) and the lightweight expanded aggregate. The small amount of asbestos is added only to provide body (resistance to sag and flow) to the fluid mortar; it also reinforces the plaster and preserves its integrity when exposed to high temperature.

The asbestos fibers are securely embedded and immobilized in the gypsum plaster cement matrix and should not be released to the air unless it were forcefully pulverized.

Unless the FIRECODE Plaster has been abused and damaged, I do not believe that any action to contain the asbestos is indicated. However, if the FIRECODE Plaster has been damaged at any point, repairs may be necessary to assure the integrity of the fireproofing.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT USG-152

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USG does not market any spray-on fireproofing material for structural buildings. USG does have a line of THERMAFIBER Safing Insulation for fire protection of columns and beams of steel-framed structures. THERMAFIBER Safing Insulation is a mineral fiber felt (contains no asbestos) and has been tested by U.L. Designs and product specifications are available from Dept. #133 Architectural and Construction Services at 101 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, or from District Offices.

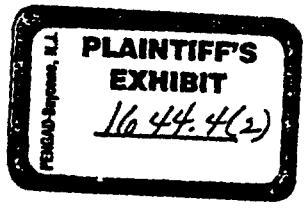
I trust that this information serves your needs. If you require further information, please feel free to contact the writer.

Sincerely,

Kenneth S. Freeman

Kenneth S. Freeman, Manager
Consumer Product Safety
Research and Development

KSF:ka



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