

August 26, 1955

Mr. Hugh M. Jackson, Manager
Industrial Health Program
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Hugh:

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory. We did not feel that we could reply in correspondence to Mr. Kane, and therefore invited him to the Institute for a conference. We notified him of the fact that much information is available on the safe handling and use of practically all insulating materials, and we supplied him with sufficient data to allay his fears.

Some time in the future I would like to discuss this matter with you.

Sincerely yours,

C. Richard Walmer, M.D.
Managing Director

CRW:dh
Enclosure (Letter August 13, 1955 from Mr. John W. Kane, Corresponding Secretary, International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers - DH)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS AND ASBESTOS WORKERS
Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and
Building and Construction Trades Department

Writer's address: 36 Perry Lane

Local Union No. 2

City: Pittsburgh 29, Pa. August 13, 1955

Dear Sir:

I have and always will continue to have the greatest respect for the Mellon Institute and the really great people who staff her. And so it is with little wonder that I urgently appeal to you people for possible help, in the light of the many, many advancements made by the Institute in the examination of air pollution, that Sir is our problem, seven of the last nine of the members of our Union, the Asbestos Workers, (pipe covers) have died of lung disorders. It is believed by many of us to be an occupational disease, although I am familiar with the fact that asbestosis is the number 2 occupational disease I do not believe we are Hindered to any great extent as we are not subjected to breathing in great amounts of it in confined areas. But I, as all others also believe that our new hazards are found in our comparatively newer materials all of these are fiberous they are fiberglas, foamglas and other glass type insulations, mineral wool (the loose type wool which Has the addition of formaldehyde to it). When working with these materials in confined areas it so pollutes the air that it seems to remain suspended in the air and visibility is not great where it is used extensively. One of the results of this action is that it slows the men down as though they were not receiving enough oxygen. These materials are also irritating to the skin of some and itchy to all. Although I know the Mellon Institute is not a social organization I was in deep hope that you may give us some information and practices that we may adopt, for instance our men do not wear respirators in the application of these materials. They claim they slow them down and provide improper breathing. We would appreciate any information you could give us on these materials and what dangers they could create. We are interested both in a measure of prevention if any, and control of the air pollution which if ever gauged for density would most certainly be declared contaminated. I am sure that you as thoughtful human beings will help us make a deep cut in the preventible cases, by giving the proper knowledge and safety factors we may practice.

Sincerely,

C
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P
Y

(s) John W. Kane
Corresponding Secretary