

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
GF-1139

THE RUBEROID Co.
SAFETY DEPARTMENT
SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N. J. 08880

For Attention Mr. L. B. Parrall

Copy to Mr. D. L. Neil

THIS COPY FOR

Date November 15, 1966

Reference

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Subject UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE - ST. LOUIS PLANT SURVEY

Enclosed is your file on the above subject.

The United States Public Health Service has conducted surveys of this type in many plants of our competitors, as well as textile operations which use asbestos fibers, and others, such as Raybestos and plants of this type. I talked at considerable length with Mr. Leon Horowitz, Safety Director of Certain-teed Products Corporation, who told me this survey had been made at Certain-teed plants in St. Louis and Hillsboro, Texas. As far as he is concerned, everything was handled satisfactorily and no reference made to anything that might be derogatory or critical to the company. He suggested that we have the Public Health Service write a letter to our local plant, asking permission to conduct the survey and stating their reasons for doing so. In his case, this information was posted on the company bulletin boards and this seemed to placate all the employees.

The Public Health Service took sample dust readings at various locations in the plant, which took about three days, and they had a nurse with them who interviewed all the employees in the plant, asking them the information contained in the form included in this correspondence. Mr. Horowitz is certain there would be no detrimental effects from this study and feels that his company did the proper thing by cooperating. A complete report will be given to Certain-teed by United States Public Health Service, but this will not be forthcoming for about six months.

A similar survey was done at one of Flintkote's Asbestos Pipe plants, but, as of today, I have been unable to get information about this from them.

I also understand Johns-Manville Corporation has had similar surveys made at several plants, but the director of safety is on the West Coast and will not be back until after Thanksgiving.

At a recent meeting of the National Insulation Manufacturers' Association Committee, a discussion ensued regarding a United States Public Health survey of asbestos workers to be undertaken on the West Coast, and this committee was of the opinion that industry should cooperate with these investigators.

A great deal of adverse publicity has been given to the manufacture and use of materials containing asbestos fibers, and our industry has been unable to combat this unfavorable information, since we do not have data available to support a rebuttal.

If surveys indicate that we should be doing more than we are to protect our workers from the effects of asbestos, then we should know about it and immediately take proper precautions. On the other hand, these surveys may indicate that we are doing all that is necessary and conditions are not as bad as they are described by some sources; furthermore, this will give us material to use to counteract these unsubstantiated claims.

MICH06177

The RUBEROID Co.
SAFETY DEPARTMENT
SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N. J. 08880

For Attention Mr. L. B. Farrell

Date November 15, 1966

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Subject UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE - ST. LOUIS PLANT SURVEY

In view of the fact that companies such as Certain-teed, Johns-Manville, Flintkote, and others, have cooperated, I feel that we should. Our cooperation at this time may prevent a full-scale investigation, such as occurred in other industries.

H. R. Mesler, Jr.

HRM:ab

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