INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

RESEARCH

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT USM 112

0014

To: F. M. Stumpf

From: J. F. O'Rourke

Date: May 19, 1967

Subject: Complaint Investigation at the Union Carbide Job - ~~Morris Plains, N. J.~~

On May 10, the writer visited the Union Carbide job in Morris Plains, N. J., because Sprayed Fireproofing Contractors had requested my attendance for a job meeting. Neither Don McPhee or Joe Hardy of Sprayed Fireproofing showed up at the meeting and I visited with Mr. William Blanchard, Jr., son of the general contractor and Mike, job superintendent.

The steel deck supplied to the job was supplied by Wheeling Corrugating Company. It is their standard 1½" steel roof deck and it had a white vinyl primer applied to the undersurface of the deck. Becuase of the height, it was difficult to analyze the surface sheen on the underside, but it did not appear to be of any higher gloss than typical roof decks supplied on jobs. In fact in areas wherein fiber was not being applied, they had already been spray painted with a white latex paint which seemed to cover real well.

From just looking at the areas, it is the writer's honest opinion that perhaps the greatest problem may have been freezing during application since the delamination occurred clean at the bond line with no residual fiber remaining on the underside of the deck. I honestly don't feel that the presence of adhesive would have made that much difference from what I saw on the job. Obviously, the lack of adhesive and the sheen of the vinyl primer surface may have contributed to the failure, but the writer really feels the main problem was with freezing which may have generated a lock of bond at the time of application or freezing of the applied material which when deflected by walking on the roof may have severed the bond in sheets.

I explained this to the general contractors and all they want is to satisfy the concern of Union Carbide. Union Carbide wants assurance that when the material is resprayed, that there will not be problems of further delamination.

I suggested that Sprayed Fireproofing Contractors arrange with the general contractor for a scaffold so that the areas can be checked. Perhaps they may want to run some bond strength tests and I offered the services of our Research Lab to work with Sprayed Fireproofing Contractors in order to determine the soundness of the material currently in place.

By copy of this memo, I am asking Harry Gropp to have Allen Bessemer coordinate a job inspection by the CAFCO contractor with the general contractor. We should know what the dimensions of the bottom plane of the flute are as well as dimensions of the crown of the flute so that we can fabricate some templets that can be used to run some bond strength tests at random. Allen Bessemer should have Sprayed Fireproofing Contractors send us up a section of the deck to get some measurements so that we can get the templets fabricated now. Then when the job inspection occurs, we can go down with the hot wax and the templets and get a reference as to what the bond strength characteristics would be. If we find in certain areas that the bond strength of the Type "D" to the deck is the same as the bond strength applied to the beam, then we can pretty much eliminate the possibility that the surface paint finish was contributing to this problem.