

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
550 Main Street, Federal Office Bldg., Rm. 7033
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

January 26, 1972

Shiro Tanaka, M.D.
Occupational Health Program
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources
933 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

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EXHIBIT

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Dear Dr. Tanaka:

The potential for additional asbestos exposures should be considered at the Pittsburgh Corning Corporation amosite asbestos operations in Fort Allegany in view of recent NIOSH findings at the Pittsburgh Corning plant in Tyler, Texas.

Two fields of amosite asbestos waste were brought to the attention of the Texas Air Control Board; and the plant will be required to cover the dumps of asbestos material, which escapes as fugitive emissions during high winds and during the dumping process.

Also, nurseries in the Tyler area purchase burlap bags, previously used for the storage of amosite asbestos, for wrapping the bases of rose bushes. Enclosed is a NIOSH report describing high asbestos concentrations in an exposure chamber following the shaking of a burlap bag obtained from a Tyler nursery. For a four-minute sample, the average asbestos concentration of fibers greater than five microns in length in the worker's breathing zone was 490 fibers per cc. High intermittent peak concentrations are a real possibility in the work situation.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Johnson, M.D.
Acting Deputy Director
Division of Field Studies
and Clinical Investigations

Enclosure:

NIOSH Report - Asbestos - Burlap Bags

cc: Director, DYESCI
Acting Chief, Environmental Investigations Branch, DYESCI
Regional Program Director, NIOSH, Region III