PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
GF-2231

JANUARY 4, 1972

EPA HEARINGS ON PROPOSED EMISSION CONTROL STANDARDS FOR ASBESTOS - NEW YORK, N. Y., JANUARY 18, 1972 - STATEMENT OF J. B. JOBE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

My name is J. B. Jobe, and I am Executive Vice President for Operations for the Johns-Manville Corporation. Johns-Manville is the largest miner of asbestos fiber in the Free World and the largest producer of asbestos-containing products in the United States.

Accompanying me here today are four experts in the asbestos-health field. They are Dr. Fred L. Sundstrom, Vice President for Research and Development for Johns-Manville; Dr. George W. Wright, Director of Medical Research, St. Luke's Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. J. Corbett McDonald, Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Health, McGill University, Montreal; and Mr. Edmund M. Fenner, Director of Environmental Control for Johns-Manville.

As an introduction to their testimony, I would like to very briefly outline for you the position of my company with regard to the proposed National Emission Standards on asbestos, and then to present a general picture of the size and scope of the asbestos industry in the United States . . . the types of

products produced, the number of people employed, and other factors that will help establish the relative position of the asbestos industry in the economic and social structure of this country.

The asbestos industry has recognized for many years that there are occupational health hazards associated with the excessive inhalation of asbestos dust. As a result, the industry, beginning at the Saranac Laboratories in Saranac Lake, New York, in the late 1920's, has sponsored and cooperated in a wide variety of scientific research projects designed to identify these hazards and to eliminate them wherever they may exist, not only in asbestos mines, mills and manufacturing plants, but also among fabricators and applicators of finished asbestos products. In recent years, the asbestos industry, either as individual companies or through the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association's sponsorship of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health in Montreal, has or is continuing to support medical research at such highly regarded institutions as McGill University in Montreal, Tulane University in Louisiana, St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland, the Environmental Sciences Laboratory at Mount Sinai Hospital here in New York, the Industrial Health Foundation in Pittsburgh, the University of California at Berkeley, Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, the University of Pittsburgh, the Medical College of South Carolina, and a number of others, both here and abroad.

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The asbestos industry has also cooperated extensively in various investigations into asbestos-health conducted by agencies of the Federal Government, including the U. S. Public Health Service, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency. In fact, I might add, much of the technical and other data that formed the background of the proposed National Emission Standards under review today was obtained with the complete cooperation and assistance of the asbestos industry.

In addition, in the industry's own research laboratories, scientists and engineers are also engaging in work related to health, developing better handling techniques for loosely bound asbestos products and also developing and improving techniques for the measurement and control of asbestos emissions both in the workplace and in the ambient air.

For many years, in fact, since the mid-1930's, Johns-Manville and others in the asbestos industry have actively been pursuing the goal of control of asbestos emissions, utilizing the best available technology of the times. Thus we are sympathetic with the concept of controlling emissions, and have invested many millions of dollars in sophisticated and highly efficient dust control equipment and techniques to reduce worker exposure and to prevent the emission of hazardous amounts of asbestos fiber into the air that the general public breathes.

We concur with the conclusion reached in the recent National Academy of Sciences report on asbestos that at present the general public is not in danger from the minute amounts of asbestos fiber present in the ambient air. We also concur in the report's recommendation that it is prudent and feasible to establish reasonable emission standards and controls that will protect the public and ensure that hazardous levels of asbestos will not develop in the community air in the future.

For this reason, with the exception of some minor changes that Mr. Fenner will discuss later, we support the proposed Environmental Protection Agency National Emission Standards on asbestos.

With this support firmly in mind, I would now like to sketch for you very briefly the economic aspects of the asbestos industry.

In the very first sentence of the introduction to the National Academy of Sciences report that I referred to earlier, it states that (quote) the naturally occurring fibrous silicates classified as "asbestos" have become almost indispensable in modern technology (end quote). This statement is indeed true, and it helps explain the substantial industry that has developed around the world over the past 100 years to mine and manufacture asbestos and asbestos-containing products. Among other uses, asbestos provides built-in protection against fire and deterioration in scores of products in daily use.

Through the years, it has saved countless lives and billions of dollars in property damage by preventing or checking the spread of fires. Asbestos-containing products are used in schools, houses, theaters, office and other public buildings, ships, spacecraft, furnaces, boilers and fire-fighting equipment. The brakes on automobiles, trucks, buses and trains are dependable because asbestos is a vital component of brake linings. It has been estimated that some 3,000 different products in daily use around the world contain asbestos.

In the United States, the consumption of asbestos fiber over the past half dozen years has remained fairly stable at an average of approximately 750,000 tons per year, with an estimated value of $90 million. Of this total, 126,000 tons valued at $10.6 million was produced domestically, the rest being imported, primarily from Canada.

Based on Bureau of the Census manufacturing statistics for 1969, the estimated value of asbestos-containing products produced was between $800 and $850 million. These products were produced in approximately 250 different manufacturing facilities throughout the United States, with a work force of at least 28,000 employees, and a payroll well in excess of $200 million.

In addition, it has been estimated that approximately 75,000-100,000 additional workers depend in some part for their

livelihood on the use of asbestos-containing products. These would include construction workers; insulation applicators; siding, roofing and tile installers; pipe layers; salesmen, distributors and dealers in asbestos products, and many others. It is impossible to calculate the total income derived by these workers from the use or sale of asbestos-containing products, but it would appear to be substantial.

If one adds in the value of services, machinery, raw materials and other commodities purchased by the asbestos manufacturing industry each year for use in the production or shipment of finished asbestos products, the total economic contribution of the industry to the nation's economy would reach beyond the two billion dollar mark, and would involve, to some degree, the livelihood of perhaps 150 to 200 thousand wage earners and their families.

As you can see, the economic contribution of the asbestos industry to the nation's economy is substantial. In addition, the many and varied life-saving uses of asbestos play an important role in our modern technological society. For these reasons, it is essential that any health hazards associated with exposure to heavy quantities of asbestos fiber be eliminated. To quote once more from the National Academy of Sciences report: "Asbestos is too important in our technology and economy for its essential use to be stopped."

On behalf of Johns-Manville, I would therefore like to express once again our continuing recognition of the need for the control of asbestos emissions into the ambient air, and to pledge our determination to do whatever is necessary within the limits of technical feasibility to achieve such controls.

Thank you.

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Executive Offices

January 19, 1971

Mr. A. H. Fay
National Gypsum

Mr. R. Power Fraser
GAF

Mr. Harold McNabb
Certain-teed

Mr. James Moran
Flintkote

Mr. E. W. Swain
Panacon

Mr. S. D. Weaver
Woodward Iron

Mr. S. R. Zimmerman
Raybestos-Manhattan

Gentlemen:

I am attaching the second in a series of mailings, to be sent to you approximately once a month, embodying summaries of the latest medical papers, speeches, publicity clippings, etc., covering asbestos and health.

Sincerely,

W. P. Raines
Director of Public Relations

cc: F. J. Solon, Jr.
E. M. Fenner
M. M. Swetonic
Larry Woodward - Certain-teed

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