FILE NAME: Asbestos Cement Pipe and Sheet (ACPS)

DATE: 1973 Aug 30

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Box 4-02121

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Labor and Industries
Division of Occupational Hygiene
39 Boylston Street, Boston 02116

GWW

IN YOUR REPLY
REFER TO FILE

August 30, 1973

Labor 2710
Finance 2252

Mr. Richard Goodwin, President
Johns-Manville Corporation
Greenwood Plaza
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

As you may know, this division has made a number of studies of asbestos dust and fiber exposure of workers in your Billerica, Massachusetts, facility. It is apparent from relatively recent epidemiological information that industry and the industrial hygiene profession have underestimated the potential of asbestos fibers for producing injury.

While most continuous exposures to asbestos fibers are at manufacturing facilities such as yours, there are many exposures among the users of asbestos products, which, while typically intermittent, are also typically uncontrolled or, at best, inadequately controlled.

We have recently had occasion to measure asbestos fiber concentrations at plants where Marinite board was being processed by drilling, sawing, and even handling. Concentrations [illegible] in excess of the current OSHA standard have been found, the highest value we have recorded being in excess of 100 fibers per milliliter of air, as opposed to the permissible standard of five. We believe that this fact warrants a further investigation of asbestos exposure among users of your Marinite products. We would, therefore, appreciate it if you could send us a list of your customers for this material in Massachusetts. This information would be used solely for the purpose of investigating possible areas of harmful exposure to asbestos fibers among workers and taking the necessary action to eliminate such exposure.

If this particular procedure is not practicable from your standpoint, we would appreciate any suggestions you can make as to how we could proceed in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Hervey B. Elkins

Hervey B. Elkins
Director

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