

FILE NAME: James Hardie (JH)

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January 16, 1979

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Dear Terry:

As I reread your letter of August 22, I realized I am not exactly prompt in answering correspondence! It seems that all I have been doing since the summer is preparing testimony or written submissions for one regulatory agency or another in Washington. I'm afraid I am getting a little tired of asbestos.

Anyway to answer your questions about our No-Smoking Program, I first have to say that the implementation has been very gradual, so we really don't have a lot of data at this time. Once the program is in effect at a plant the ban on smoking is total. Resistance has been minimal considering how hard it is for some people to reduce smoking, let alone eliminate the habit altogether. We have had isolated complaints, and some trade unions have tried to use the program as a bargaining agent. We don't know how many employees still smoke at home, and it is too early to note any change in absenteeism due to respiratory diseases. These are some of the things we are going to pursue later this year when we review the plant programs and update the educational sessions. Overall, I can't say we would have done anything differently; it may have helped us though to do a bit more preliminary work with the unions than we did, especially at the local level at a few of our older operations.

To keep you aware of what has been happening in the States since the NYAS meeting, I am enclosing a copy of a Nation Cancer Institute report on cancer incidence in the United States which was prepared in support of OSHA's proposed generic standard for carcinogens. Also enclosed are our comments on that report. In addition, the use of asbestos-sprayed materials for ceilings in public buildings and schools has received considerable attention in the news media. Congressional hearings have been held at which representatives from Johns-Manville testified, and I am enclosing copies of this material as well.

I trust all is well with you. All good wishes for the New Year.

Cordially,

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