

FILE NAME: US Gypsum (USG)

DATE: February 15, 1983

DOC#: USG006

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1983 Legal - Defense response to interrogatory

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
GREENVILLE DIVISION

Greenville County School District,) C/A No. 82-3142-14
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.)
)
United States Gypsum Company,)
W. R. Grace Company, National)
Gypsum Company, Proko Industries,)
Inc., Union Carbide Corporation,)
and Carey-Canada, Inc.,)
)
Defendants.)

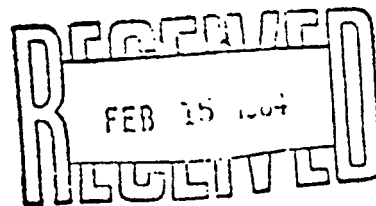
DEFENDANT UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY'S RESPONSE
TO "NOTICE" INTERROGATORY QUESTION POSED BY THE
HONORABLE WILLIAM W. WILKINS

United States Gypsum Company (hereinafter "USG")
responds to the "notice" Interrogatory propounded by the
Honorable William W. Wilkins, on January 9, 1984 as follows:

A thorough review of USG files and records which could
be identified as possibly containing information encompassed by
this Interrogatory reveals that on or about September 3, 1948,
was the earliest documented date upon which USG, or any of its
officers, employees or agents, in an individual or corporate
capacity, first became suspicious or aware that asbestos may be a
harmful substance.

Blf's DEP. EX. NO. 12
FOR ID. AS OF 7-29-86

TAB



In further response to this Interrogatory, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a reference listing of documents utilized to arrive at the above date and all similar information since that date until 1973, the date of last construction in the Greenville school cases. To the extent that documents are identified which predate 1948, these documents were physically in USG files, but there is no evidence suggesting that the documents were actually received at any time prior to the above date.

Additionally, USG is aware of a "Memorandum of Agreement dated November 20, 1936, produced in other litigation, which suggests that USG may have contributed to a study conducted by Dr. Leroy Gardner at Saranc Lake Laboratory commencing in 1936. However, as indicated on the listing, USG cannot confirm whether, or to what extent, it may have participated in the study or received the findings.

Columbia, South Carolina

____ day of February, 1984

Exhibit "A"

9/3/48 Operating Bulletin This bulletin marks the first document date showing a recognition by USG of any of the health hazards associated with exposure to asbestos. This bulletin relates solely to USG workers.

In addition, USG has located in its files copies of the following studies, published before 1948:

9/3/48	Printed report	"Report on Effects of Asbestos Dust on the Lungs and Dust Supression in the Asbestos Industry," E. R. Merewether, M.D. and C. W. Price.
10/1931	Printed study	"A Review of Pneumoconiosis: Further Roentgenological and Pathological Studies" by H. K. Pancoast, M.D. and E. P. Pendergrass M.D.; reprinted from the <u>American Journal of Roentgenology and Radium Therapy</u> , Volume XXVI, No. 4, October, 31.
1932	Printed list of references	"Pneumoconiosis - A List of References, Published in the United Kingdom for the International Labor Office (League of Nations).
1937	Pamphlet printed by U.S. Dept. of the Interior	"Review of Literature on Effects of Breathing Dusts with Special Reference to Silicosis," by D. Harrington and Sarah J. Davenport.
1937	Official printed transcript	"Third Symposium on Silicosis" An Official Transcript of the Third Silicosis Symposium Held in Connection with the Trudeau School of Tuberculosis at Saranac Lake, New York, June 21 to June 25, 1937.

8/1938	Public Health Bulletin No. 241	"A Study on Asbestosis in the Asbestos Textile Industry."
8/1938	Pamphlet	"Silicosis and Similar Dust Diseases."
1/31/49	Experimental study report	"Asbestos Pneumoconiosis, Experimental Studies by the, Saranac Laboratory; Report to the Johns-Manville Corporations."

However, USG has located no information suggesting that these documents were actually received by it prior to 1948 or by whom, if anyone, these documents were reviewed at any time.

Additionally, USG is aware of a "Memorandum of Agreement," dated November 20, 1936, produced in other litigation which suggests that USG may have been "suspicious that asbestos was harmful" and that USG contributed to a study conducted by Dr. Leroy Gardner at Saranac Lake Laboratory commencing in 1936. However, no documents or information concerning this "Memorandum of Agreement" or the study which it purports to fund have been located in this defendant's files nor have any present or former USG employees with knowledge of same been located. Thus, USG cannot confirm whether, or to what extent, it may have participated in the study or received the findings.

7/24/52	Internal memo	Directive to all department heads and supervisors regarding various dusts, including asbestos. The health concerns relate only to gypsum dust and silica, not asbestos.
11/9/53 through 12/7/53	Letters and memos	A series of letters and memos from and to C.P. Kipp, USG, requesting information

		relating to silicosis and asbestosis, and responses thereto.
2/11/54	Operating Bulletins	Elimination of dusty conditions in the plants and requirement that employee wear adequate respiratory equipment.
2/13/59 through 7/7/80	Operating Bulletins	Operating Bulletins establishing X-Ray program for USG employees exposed to asbestos.
5/1968	Various published articles	Various newspaper articles, magazine articles, booklets, and government regulations relating to asbestos, and its health hazards, its characteristics, applications, and alternatives.
10/2/68 through 2/1973	Internal Memo	Chronological listing of newspaper stories, magazine articles, and various information gathered relating to asbestos.
1969	Regulations	Asbestos Regulation 1969, London, England.
9/1969	Pamphlet	"Recommended Code of Practice for the Handling and Disposal of Asbestos Waste Materials," by the Asbestos Research Council.
Late 1960's	Various memos, letters	Relating to USG's manufacture of Spray-Don products for Metropolitan spray and/or Sprayon Research Corporation.
3/11/70 through 8/25/71 (Approx.)	Varied memos and pamphlets	Various memos by C. P. Kipp relating to health and safety committee of the Asbestos Cement Products Association.
1/13/70	Letter	From P.E. Leclerc, Regional Sales manager for Asbestos Corporation, Ltd. to Mel Thornton of USG, advising USG

that all future shipments of Asbestos Corporations, Ltd. of asbestos would bear a caution label.

5/70	Internal memos -	Research Evaluation - hazards to user from sanding joint compounds - conclusions: "no hazard."
6/1/70	Interoffice memo	From E.V. Salvo, New York office, to C.J. Bell, regarding public hearings on the health effects of spraying of asbestos-containing materials.
6/3/70	Georgia-Pacific documents	Georgia-Pacific documents relating to Mr. Sinai Hospital Medical School's Lung research as related to a five-man crew on a drywall job in New York.
8/20/70 through 7/19/78	Research & summary documents, memos and copied articles	All Research reports relating to this subject were previously made available to counsel for plaintiff in connection with <u>Lexington County School District Five v. USG.</u>
1970	Letter	Attorney/client privilege asserted.
11/1/71	Interoffice memo	Draft memo from C.P. Kipp concerning asbestos and cancer.
6/2/72	Memo and newspaper article attached	Regarding industrial safety precautions - tape and joint compounds.
6/14/72	Interoffice memo	From C.P. Kipp to A.J. Watt, Dr. J.W. Zabor, A.R. Rump, and C.C. Gramer regarding threshold limit values for asbestos.
7/21/72 through 8/16/73	NATLSCO study for USG Research Center	Measurement of exposure levels from mixing and sanding of joint compounds

6/7/73	Interoffice memo	From J.J. McVay to some plants advising governmental ban regarding the use of asbestos in spray acoustical and insulation materials.
7/31/73	Letter	From Irving J. Selikoff, M.D. responding to Marie Ehrmann, Librarian, USG, providing published literature concerning asbestos.
8/15/73	Gypsum Association study	"Gypsum Association Evaluation of Exposure to Asbestos During Mixing and Sanding of Joint Compounds," and documents related thereto.
1973	Reports	Reports of National Gypsum Company and Union Carbide Corporation relating to asbestos in joint treatments and chrysotile asbestos in plastics.
1/1974 through 3/1974	Interoffice memos	OSHA standards as relate to asbestos.
1974	Internal Memo	Attorney/client privilege asserted.
1978-80 (Approx.)	IHF Digests	Available for inspection and copying.
10/1979	Medical article reprint	"Asbestos and Health in 1969," by George W. Wright, reprinted from <u>American Review of Respiratory diseases</u> , Volume 100, No. 4, October, 1969.
Uncertain	Article	Article by Harold J. Rosen of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill concluding that asbestos spray insulation must be eliminated in future construction.
Uncertain	Editorial	Dr. J.C. McDonald of McGill University's Department of Epidemiology and Health concludes that, at the present levels of dust exposure in today's asbestos mills, even

30 years employment would probably not carry any measurable risk of lung cancer.

Uncertain Depositions

Included by reference herein and incorporated hereby are all of the depositions taken by Mr. Speights of USG employees or former employees, to the extent applicable.

Various Research Reports

Counsel for plaintiff has had an opportunity to inspect and copy these records -- those that relate in any way to the subject of asbestos as well as any others requested by plaintiff's counsel.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

This is to certify that I, Antoinette C. Martin, employee of the firm of Robinson, McFadden, Moore, Pope, Williams, Taylor, & Brailsford, P.A., have this date served Daniel A. Speights, attorney for the plaintiff in the foregoing matter with Defendant United States Gypsum Company's Response to "Notice" Interrogatory Question posed by the Honorable William W. Wilkins and the Court's Supplemental Interrogatories by placing a copies of same in the United States mail with adequate postage thereon, addressed as follows:

Daniel A. Speights, Esquire
P. O. Box 621
Hampton, SC 29924.

Dated at Columbia, South Carolina this 15th day of February, 1983.

By Antoinette C. Martin

cc: (w/encl.): F. Barron Grier, Esq.
Glenn Bowers, Esq.
P. Michael Duffy, Esq.
Suzanne K. Torrey, Esq.