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To: P J Brown

The Environmental Engineering and Safety Departments recently issued a joint Memorandum on the handling and disposal of asbestos and asbestos containing materials (12-6-76). You have received a copy of the Memorandum. Recommendations contained in the Memorandum should assist you in replying to R M Patterson's letter to you, dated 9-27-76.

As you are aware, there has been constant activity by OSHA and NIOSH over the past several years to continue reduction of personnel exposure to asbestos. The original OSHA Asbestos Standard limited exposure to 5 fibers/cc of air; this limit was lowered to 2 fibers/cc on July 1, 1976. An OSHA proposed Standard establishes a limit of 0.5 fibers/cc and recently, NIOSH has recommended to OSHA that the limit be reduced to 0.1 fiber/cc. Implications of this trend are obvious, i.e. future uses of asbestos and asbestos containing materials will become so restricted as to make its application infeasible. Substitute materials must be utilized to replace asbestos.

Manager,
Corporate Industrial Hygiene

E V Madrell

cc:

cc: G A Johnson, MD

R G Cummings

E J Burkett

60036805

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