



ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

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February 14, 1978

Mr. Thomas A. Dougherty,
Senior Vice President
CertainTeed Corporation
P.O. Box 660
Valley Forge, Pa.
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Dear Tom:

I mentioned that I would provide some thoughts and background for discussion of the Association's work during the coming months. The attachment is invited to your attention. My comments are informal, as they came to mind, with no order of priority.

It seems that our paramount concerns should be with our preparation for hearing on OSHA's proposals and obtaining favorable or at least reasonable judgments or verdicts in asbestos cases.

We will closely follow developments with the generic concept for the regulation of carcinogens as they may affect asbestos regulation. As you know, EPA and CPSC are involved as well as OSHA. We may expect further actions by EPA on asbestos control this year as a result of the Supreme Court decision with regard to "work practices" not being a standard for control. We may see some further actions by CPSC though we believe that the Kearney Report will not be unreasonable. The Department of Transportation may be expected to propose regulations for the transport of hazardous materials with specific reference to asbestos. We are aware that the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau of the Treasury Department plans investigation of asbestos in alcoholic beverages resulting from use of asbestos filters.

I believe you share my belief that this year can be of great significance to the future well-being of the asbestos industry. The N.Y. Academy of Science Conference will be extremely important to thinking on the asbestos-health



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issues. Actions on asbestos regulation by a number of foreign countries must be carefully watched for their impact on the U.S. We need to be alert and bring our best thinking together to establish reasonable attitudes regarding asbestos and health or further erosion of the market will surely result. Aggressive involvement by the membership is necessary to our objectives.

With all good wishes,

Cordially,



R.A. Vereness,
Executive Director

RRM/sm
enclosure

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REPORT OF
SPECIAL ACTIVITY AREAS

February 10, 1973

22.

AREA

Public hearing on OSHA proposed revision to asbestos standard; construction standard.

STATUS:

Standards Advisory Committee fully involved. Meeting with ACPPA to discuss work practices for construction industry scheduled Feb. 9. Dr. Weill reviewing medical statement submitted with AIA/NA response to proposal. Ad hoc committee on construction to meet in March. Trospen of J-M continues work on dust accumulation handtools in construction industry. AIA/NA preliminary outline of proposed construction standard developed. Economic impact and technological studies of OSHA contractors CONSAD and RTI to be reviewed when available.

COMMENT:

It can not be stated for certain that hearing will be held this year. Rumors persist that it could take place after mid-year but with OSHA's announced priorities and possible effect of OSHA's generic cancer policy on asbestos regulation, hearing in near future seems unlikely. Nevertheless, continuing thought should be given to scenario for AIA/NA participation in hearing including designation of leading spokesman, witnesses, use of graphic material etc.

The Standards Advisory Committee is considering recommending to the Executive Committee that an AIA/NA proposed standard for the construction industry be completed as soon as possible for submittal to OSHA in the thought that the Association's work practice approach to regulation might be acceptable and serve as a guide to the OSHA proposal. We may wish to consider urging early hearing to put a stop to uncertainties that are affecting the well being of the asbestos industry.

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION:

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Dr. Rhodes, Chairman, Standards Advisory Committee, to make report at Executive Committee Meeting Feb. 22. Committee discussion should be held on presentation of AIA/NA position on construction standard to OSHA. Whether board action is required should be considered.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>STATUS:</u>
2	Activities of Medical Consultant	Following are continuing projects: - Review of pertinent medical literature conference on asbestos related disease comment to Association. - Review and comment for update of AIA/NA publications at present, "Asbestos and Health", "Asbestos in the Atmosphere", and "Asbestos in Water". - Review and update on medical statement submitted by AIA/NA on OSHA proposed revision to asbestos standard. - Review and comment on medical aspects of various governmental initiatives, both federal and state, as affects asbestos other papers, publications, etc. that speak to asbestos health issues.

Following are projects requiring approval of Executive Committee and referral to director:

- Meeting of physicians involved in relating industry position with regard to asbestos regulation. Dr. Weill encourage such a meeting prior to N.Y. Academy of Sciences conference in June. Suggested attendees include, Drs. Kotin, Paul, L. John, Wright, Weiss, Goodman, Cooper and Enterline. Purpose would be to assess state of medical art, formulate industry's position on medical aspects of federal regulations, refutation or clarification of myths and positions that are contrary to best scientific opinion, advise industry as to overall situation and recommend appropriate courses of action.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

- Develop plan and program for AIA/NA sponsored plant physicians conference with current year. This project has been in abeyance due to money and other considerations although considerable interest has been voiced by Association members. Meeting might well be held shortly after Academy of Science meeting in June

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

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NO.

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STATUS:

c. Recommendations for AIR/NA involvement research. At present Association is providing no direct support to research. Executive Committee might wish to consider recommendations of Dr. Weill, means of financial support from industry and other groups including government research. Should Dr. Weill be asked to comment submit recommendations? Is this a topic for discussion among physicians as proposed in "a" above?

Yes _____ No _____

d. Should Dr. Weill attend and speak at Director's meeting March 15?

Yes _____ No _____

Legal-Medical
Research Program

Dr. Enterline hopes to complete review of bestosis literature by end of March. He commences sabbatical March 1 and will devote time to this project including writing of a paper for publication. Special Counsel Alcorn has medical state of art memorandum in being for defense counsels. Additional work of Enterline will augment background literature of memorandum. Counsel has advised that a charge of \$2,000 for the state of the art legal memorandum for costs of preparation does not jeopardize Association's status with IRS when made available to non-member defense attorneys. Special Counsel will handle communications and billing, as agreed upon by Executive Committee. Mr Gabrielson will serve as project director for Executive Committee Alcorn, with approval of Executive Committee visited with attorney Markusson of J-M Jan. 25. Alcorn advised meeting was very beneficial. He stated information of great value was made available to him for "data bank". He said there is a need for additional expert medical witnesses and that he and Markusson (with the assistance of Drs. Kotin and Weill) are working on the matter.

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Captive Insurance Program

Armstrong has advised that they are in the process of completing the primary analysis of

NO.	AREA	STATUS:
		information received from participants. A meeting has been requested by Brandyberry to discuss state of project. This meeting should be held as soon as possible. As a replacement for Guy Gabrielson as Chairman of the Captive Insurance Committee, I suggest Sy Weiss of Flintkote and will contact him.
5	Information/ Education/ Publications	At the direction of Mr. Poutiatine, Jim B. of J-M is reviewing materials now available from AIA/NA and will make recommendations on other materials that should be made available from the Association. In addition, Reaser met with Friction Materials Standard Inst. to develop work practice material for brake service industry. AIA/NA Technical Comm. is reviewing current Association work practice handbooks. Asbestos Cement Pipe Produce Association has developed work practice which is now being given mass distribution. New AIA/NA handbook on federal and state asbestos regulations will be distributed in two weeks. "Asbestos and Health" pamphlet in editing process.
6	Asbestos Sampling and Monitoring Program	Program now underway. No federal government (OSHA-NIOSH) participation though effort made to obtain. Twenty-eight laboratories collecting and counting; 18 other laboratories just counting. Report by Rhodes will be sent to Executive Committee.
7	Federal Studies, grants for asbestos research	Information obtained under Freedom of Information Act on numerous government funded studies and grants for research on asbestos and its relationship to disease being compiled by staff. Expect report to be finished by mid-March.
8	AIA/NA Comment on OSHA, other federal government regulatory agency generic cancer concepts for regulation of asbestos.	Date for notification of intent to appear at OSHA public hearing on proposed generic cancer policy delayed until February 26. AIA/NA closely following work of American Industrial Health Council, NCA, Chamber of Commerce and ORC. We may wish to endorse AISC comments. We may wish to ask for opt

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Special Activity Areas.....Pg 5

NO.

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STATUS:

tunity to testify. Report to be given at Executive Committee meeting. Decision should be made as to action to be taken.

9

Industry-Government Conference

Planning should begin now if AIA/NA is to sponsor Industry-Government Conference in connection with annual meeting. Interest among members and with government agencies runs high for continuation of program. Decision should be made and chairman appoint Request Executive Committee approval to pr

10

N.Y. Academy of Science Conference, June 24-27

It is clear that this conference will be of major significance. Members should be encouraged to attend and participate. Mr. M has suggested an AIA/NA hospitality suite. Full discussion suggested at Executive Committee meeting.

11

Membership

Letters will go out shortly to a screened list of prospective members. It appears clear GAF has not favorably considered its decision to resign.

12

Public Relations

The Association discontinued an aggressive public relations program a few years back. It has been noted that major public relations programs through advertising in the media, by U. K. and France have not proved to be particularly rewarding. At same time J-M's public relations approach is positive notwithstanding intention to solve problems and not dissociate with asbestos. If the industry remains only defensive it may be assumed that contamination will take place with substitute material taking over the market. It is suggested that the posture of the industry needs to be examined and measures considered to offset continuing negative reaction in the marketplace and by the public at large to adverse publicity. Employment of a public relations consultant might be considered for "outside view of what the industry through the Association might beneficially do.

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NO.

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Industry
"Calls"

With the exception of J-M, it appears that little effort is being made by asbestos industry members to call upon OSHA officials and other regulatory officials to make known problems, explore initiatives and develop good will. A program of "calls" is suggested for discussion at the Executive Committee Meeting.

14

"No Smoking"

J-M's ban on smoking in its asbestos plant appears to have encountered few problems and has been publicly received as a progress step in asbestos protection. It is recommended that the Association formally take a position of discouraging smoking among asbestos workers. With approval of the directors it is held that release of a statement along the following lines would be highly beneficial to the industry:

"The Asbestos Information Association North America, an organization of more than 50 miners and manufacturers of asbestos and asbestos products in the United States and Canada went on record today (date) at a Board meeting) to discourage tobacco smoking among asbestos workers. The action follows the recent prohibition on smoking by Johns-Manville Corporation in all of its asbestos plants. Johns-Manville is one of the largest asbestos processing companies in the world. In recent years physicians throughout the world have noted the increased incidence of pulmonary disease including lung cancer among asbestos workers who

Quotes from Kotin, Waill And Selikoff, past Surgeon General could be added.

*To be reviewed
in association
with the union.*

<u>NO.</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>STATUS:</u>
15	Asbestos Health Hazards Compensation Act	At this time nothing new can be reported on "Fenwick" bill. Congresswoman Fenwick's office advises that they hope to hold hearings before mid-year but no hearings scheduled and no sponsors of bill. If hearings take place Association will be asked as to its position. The Executive Committee may wish to reconsider its "no position" posture.
16	Labor Relations	Does further opportunity present for dialog with organized labor with regard to the various issues involved in regulation? This is complex and may be worth readdressal.