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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Draft of Letter to Westinghouse RE Asbestos Fiber Roofing Products with Cover Memo

3844490

Johns-Manville

To: Paul Kotin-4N

Date: May 25, 1976

From: R. L. Fricklas-5S

Copies: See end of correspondence

Subject:

Attached is a draft of a letter we would like to submit through our local sales office to the Westinghouse Corporation.

They have told our local sales representative that they will no longer use asbestos built-up roofing because of the health hazards associated with it.

We consider this to be sufficiently serious that we have offered to provide discussions, data, and testing as indicated.

Please advise if this letter is o.k. or what changes should be made.

R. L. Fricklas

cc: R. D. Dickenson-5S
R. G. Ducey-5S
R. W. Rogers-5S
E. M. Fenner-4N
W. B. Reitze-4N
G. L. Swallow-4N
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File
Chrono

Johns-Manville
Sales Corporation

Building Systems Division

Greenwood Plaza
Denver, Colorado 80217
(303) 770-1000

DRAFT FOR WESTINGHOUSE

RE: Asbestos Fiber Roofing Products

Since the early 1970's, Johns-Manville has been conducting health studies on all its products containing asbestos fibers.

Uncontrolled release of asbestos fibers into the air constitutes a health hazard. This fact is now well recognized. However, it is believed that a threshold level exists, below which there is no health hazard.

OSHA established a maximum threshold level of 5 fibers/cc in the early 1970's. J-M's product areas were quickly brought down to this level and reduced below 2 fibers by 1974. This 2 fiber level exists today as the safe limit established by OSHA for occupational environments.

Because J-M is a major manufacturer of built-up roofing systems, attention has been focused not only on our production facilities, but in our customer's workplace as well.

For built-up roofing, this means both during the application of new built-up roofs and in the tear-off or reroofing operations.

Early published results of a study conducted by J-M and the National Roofing Contractors appeared in Roofing-Siding-Insulation Magazine in 1972.

This program has continued and is still continuing.

The basic program consists of using power filters on the workforce with the intake area near the face. Additional filters are placed upwind and downwind of the construction site.

Fiber levels have been well below 2.0 fibers with all cases below 0.5 fibers with two exceptions. (summary attached)

This data shows that the fiber release is very low, confirming our belief that asbestos roofing felts essentially consist of "bound" asbestos rather than free fibers.

We are willing to provide all substantiating data to interested parties.

In addition, J-M would be willing to equip the workforce on a forthcoming construction job with these test devices and to provide complete test results for analysis.

In addition, our Medical Department would be willing to discuss this in depth with Westinghouse medical authorities to provide additional documentation if needed.

If further information is needed, please contact R. L. Fricklas, Environmental Coordinator for Industrial Construction Products, Johns-Manville, Greenwood Plaza, Denver, Colorado, 80217, phone 303-770-1000.