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DATE: 1972

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Testimony at the Dept of Labor Hearing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PLAINTIFFS  
EXHIBIT  
NG72

In the Matter of:

STANDARD FOR EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS DUST,  
PROPOSED RULE MAKING

PUBLIC HEARING

Conference Room B  
Interdepartmental Auditorium  
12th & Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D.C.  
Thursday, March 16, 1972

The above-entitled matter came on for further hearing pursuant to recess, at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., Thursday, March 1972.

BEFORE:

ARTHUR M. GOLDBERG, Hearing Examiner

APPEARANCES:

( As heretofore noted.)

copy  
on  
Asbestos

AFTERNOON SESSION

(2:00 p.m.)

EXAMINER GOLDBERG: On the record.

Mr. Fay and Mr. Swetonie -- excuse me, is  
Doctor Tetrick in the room?

All right, Mr. Fay and Mr. Swetonie.

MR. FAY: My name is Albert H. Fay. I am Vice  
President of the Gold Bond Building Products Division of the  
National Gypsum Company in Buffalo, New York. I am appearing  
here today in my capacity as president of the Asbestos  
Information Association of North America, located in New York  
City. The Asbestos Information Association is comprised of  
twelve of the nation's largest miners, manufacturers and  
importers of asbestos and asbestos-containing products. The  
member companies of the association are listed on a fact  
sheet, which I will submit with my testimony.

As an introduction to industry testimony that will  
follow, I would like to briefly sketch for you a general  
picture of the size and scope of the asbestos industry in the  
United States, the types of products produced, the number of  
people employed, and other factors that will help position the  
asbestos manufacturing industry in the economic and social  
structure of this country:

I should mention before proceeding that the  
majority of the data that I present refers only to the

manufacturing side of the industry, and does not include detailed information on industry using finished asbestos products, such as the construction industry or the insulating application and removal trades.

Asbestos is the generic name given to a group of inorganic hydrated silicate minerals that have one common attribute, namely, the ability to be separated into relatively soft, silky fibers. The three most commonly used varieties of asbestos are chrysotile, crocidolite, or blue fiber and amosite.

It is important to note that chrysotile accounts more than 98% of the total annual United States consumption of asbestos. In the past, crocidolite and amosite were used far more extensively in the United States than they are today. The leading producers of chrysotile fiber are Canada and the Soviet Union, with smaller deposits being found in South Africa, Rhodesia, China, the United States and Italy.

Crocidolite and amosite are mined almost exclusively in South Africa.

The total annual world production of asbestos is around 4 million tons, with Canadian production accounting for about 30% of the total, and the United States about 3%.

The properties of asbestos that give it commercial value are its fibrous structure, the great tensile strength of the fibers and its resistance to high temperatures and to

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certain types of chemical action.

C: As a fireproofing material, asbestos has over the years saved untold lives and many billions of dollars in property damage. It is used in products ranging from asbestos-cement shingles, panels and siding to fireproof clothing, insulations, floor tile and friction materials. It has been estimated that some 3 thousand different products in daily use around the world contain asbestos. Most of the products, even though the percentage of asbestos in them may be small, cannot adequately perform their function without one or more of the unique properties that asbestos imparts. For most of these products, no adequate substitute for asbestos is available today.

It would take me an hour to enumerate for you the major uses of asbestos fiber. Instead, I am submitting with my testimony a listing from The Asbestos Fact Book, a publication of Asbestos Magazine, of some of the primary uses of asbestos in our modern society. I think it will become quite clear after reading this list why asbestos has often been called the indispensable mineral.

C In the United States, the consumption of raw asbestos fiber over the past decade has remained fairly stable at an average of approximately 775,000 tons per year, with an estimated value of \$90 million. Of this annual total approximately 125,000 tons valued at \$10.5 million is produced

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domestically, the rest being imported, primarily from Canada

Based on Bureau of the Census manufacturing statistics and other data, the estimated value of asbestos containing products manufactured in the United States last year was roughly \$1 billion. Only around \$35 million worth of fiber and products were exported, the rest being consumed domestically.

These products were made in well over 500 different manufacturing facilities, both large and small, throughout the United States, with a work force of at least 50,000 employees, and a payroll approaching \$½ billion.

It should be remembered that these employment and sales figures refer only to companies and industries in which asbestos fiber is converted into finished products. In most cases, these products are not sold directly to ultimate consumer, but are used in the manufacture of other products, such as automobiles, electrical appliances and fireproof clothing. In other instances, the finished asbestos-containing products pass through a dealer or distributor to an applicator or some other craftsman who installs them. This is obviously the case in the construction industry.

Thus, products containing asbestos fiber may pass through three or four levels of trade or manufacture before they are purchased by the ultimate consumer.

For this reason, it is quite difficult to accurately

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1 judge the total economic value of the asbestos industry to  
2 the nation. We firmly believe, however, that the Arthur  
3 Little Company economic study now under way, will show it  
4 be substantial. For example, it has been estimated that  
5 insulation trades alone involve 40,000 men who spend at le  
6 a quarter of their time working with asbestos-containing  
7 products. Other employees whose livelihood depends at lea  
8 to some extent on the use of asbestos-containing products  
9 include other types of construction workers; siding, roofi  
10 and tile installers, pipe layers, salesmen, distributors a  
11 dealers in asbestos products. It is impossible to calcula  
12 the total income derived by these workers from the use or  
13 sale of asbestos-containing products, but it is certainly i  
14 the hundreds of millions of dollars.

15 If one adds in the value of services, machinery,  
16 raw materials and other commodities purchased by the asbest  
17 manufacturing industry each year for use in the production  
18 shipment of finished asbestos products, the total economic  
19 contribution of the industry to the nation's economy would  
20 reach, perhaps, \$3 billion, and would involve, to some degree  
21 the livelihood of at least half a million wage earners and  
22 their families. We believe the economic and social contributi  
23 on of the asbestos industry to the nation is substantial.

24 In addition to the many and varied lifesaving  
25 uses of asbestos, they play an important role in our modern  
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technological society. For these reasons, the establishment of reasonable and feasible occupational health standards for asbestos is a matter of great importance, not only to the whose health we are trying to protect, but also to the industry and to the country as a whole.

Our industry is cooperating fully with the Arthur Little Company in the economic study they have been retained to make by OSEA. We are all working hard to develop precise figures as to the potential economic effect of the proposed regulations on our industry. To date, we have been able to make only rough estimates. In general, they show a cost to the industry of approximately \$200 million in new equipment to comply with the proposed standard of two fibers per cubic centimeter in those sections of the industry where we believe a two-fiber standard is technologically feasible. The proposed regulations would also produce a loss in sales of at least \$400 million because of the labeling requirements and the shut down of operations where two fibers is technologically unfeasible. A number of companies have already indicated that they do not believe a two-fiber standard is feasible in many operations, and that if such a standard is promulgated, they will close down those operations immediately rather than spend millions of dollars in a vain attempt to achieve the unachievable. The loss of jobs will be substantial.

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Yesterday, there was a statement made here that one plant can meet the standards, then all can. This is true. There are vast differences in the various manufacturing industries and the dissimilarity makes it impossible for one to duplicate the other.

One other point. Yesterday, it was stated that smoking substantially increases the risk of disease. Since we are all concerned about the health of those associated with this business, we would like to recommend that the proposed standard should prohibit smoking during working hours on the job and that the warning signs required to be posted should prominently display "no smoking." Precedents for this exist in regulations at the Department of Interior, for example, in uranium mines.

In closing, it is our hope that OSHA will take all of these considerations into mind in developing the standard. If this is not done, it could well spell the demise of at least half of the asbestos industry in the United States and in time, perhaps, all of it.

Thank you, Mr. Goldberg.

I want to submit two exhibits. This exhibit is a list of the members of the Asbestos Association of North America.

EXAMINER GOLDBERG: The list of members of the Asbestos Association will be Exhibit 36.

(The document above referred  
was marked as Exhibit No. 38  
for identification.)

EXAMINER GOLDBERG: All right.

MR. FAY: And the second one is the Asbestos Fact  
Sheet concerning the uses of asbestos and asbestos products.

EXAMINER GOLDBERG: That will be Exhibit 39.

(The document above referred  
was marked as Exhibit No. 39  
for identification.)

EXAMINER GOLDBERG: Thank you.

Exhibits 38 and 39 are received.

(The documents previously identified  
as Exhibits Nos. 38 and 39  
were received in evidence.)

EXAMINER GOLDBERG: Introduce yourself.

MR. SWETONIC: My name is Matthew M. Swetonic, and  
I am Executive Secretary of the Asbestos Information Association  
of North America and also manager of special projects  
in the Public Affairs Section for the Johns-Manville Corporation.

Mr. Fay has already described the association, and  
identified the companies which it represents. We are basically  
an information disseminating organization and the facts or  
opinions contained in my presentation are supported in the

DL-1-11-6  
MAY 1965

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Washington

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I HEREBY ATTEST, That the annexed copy, or each of the specified number of copies, of each of the listed below is a true copy of a document in the official custody of the Department of Labor.

1 copy each of:

Transcripts from March 14, 15, 16, and 17

Comments and hearing exhibits of:

W.J. Nicholson, American Petroleum Institute, D.A. Holaday, Brand Insul Inc., L.J. Bibri, B.J. Phillips(Certain-teed), M.W. Borow, J.D. Moran(F kote), F.L. Pundsack(J-M), J.W. Rawlings, W.M. Hancock(Dow), W.K. Hesse E.M. Fenner(J-M), E.J. Killian(Nat. Cypsum), Cement: Asbestos Products C M.M. Key, C.E. Best(MCA)

SIGNATURE AND OFFICIAL TITLE

*Daniel J. Marsick*  
Daniel J. Marsick  
Technical Information Specialist

DIVISION AND BUREAU

Docket Office/Technical Data  
Center/Occup. Sfty & Hlth Adm/  
U.S. Dept. of Labor

DATE

7 Sep. 78

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That Daniel J. Marsick who signed the foregoing attestation, is now and was at the time of signing (title) Technical Information Specialist and has legal custody of the official records of the United States Department of Labor therein attested and that full faith and credit should be given to his act as such.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I

J. J. Lafranchise

duly designated by the Secretary of Labor as Authentication Officer of the Department of Labor, have hereto subscribed my name and caused the seal of the Department of Labor to be affixed this 7th day of September 19 78

*J. J. Lafranchise*  
Authentication Officer  
Department of Labor



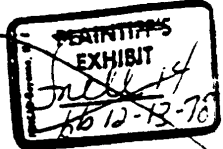
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MAY 1965

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| SIGNATURE AND OFFICIAL TITLE                                                      | DIVISION AND BUREAU                                                                   | DATE     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Daniel J. Marsick</i><br>Daniel J. Marsick<br>Technical Information Specialist | Docket Office/Technical Data<br>Center/Occup. Sfty & Hlth Adm/<br>U.S. Dept. of Labor | 7 Sep 78 |

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Authentication Officer  
Department of Labor

