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Institute

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RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING INSTITUTE
Minutes of the
Regular and Associate Member Meetings
February 14, 1980
Washington, D.C.

The following were in attendance:

Regular Members

American Biltrite, Inc.

Azrock Floor Products
Congoleum Corporation
GAF Corporation

Kentile Floors, Inc.

Mannington Mills, Inc.

National Floor Products Company

Roger Marcus -
Merrill Smith
John Hanson
William K. Clark
Frank McKinney
Jack Scheckowitz
Philip Gillcrist
Jack R. Lee
Jack Clegg
Andrew Kennedy
H. Arthur Williams
Robert Zimmerman
Harvey F. Robbins
George Pillow, Jr.

Associate Members

BASF Wyandotte
Borden Chemical

Diamond Shamrock
Firestone Plastics Co.

BFGoodrich

W.R. Grace & Co.

Hughson Chemicals
Johns-Manville

Monsanto Company
PPG Industries, Inc.
Stauffer Chemical Co.

Franklin Bishop
John Herrmann
Elliott Linsky
Alan Bailey
Charles Finkbinder
James J. Taylor
Gary Norman
Thomas Grabenstetter
Robert Edmonston
Lewis Sullivan
Dennis Fraula
Dale DeBlander
Joel Bodder
Gene Connor
Wayne Jackson
Dennis Kelleher
James Reis
James Williams
Larry Lawrence
Frank Caplan
Robert Pecha
Pete Roggi
John Schumacher

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Associate Members, continued

Tenneco Chemical Co.

Guy Disch
Barry Cogan
Ray Gregor
Robert Walker
Roger Lacallade

Uniroyal

Guests

Asbestos Information Association
Consumer Product Safety Commission
Environmental Protection Agency
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Hercules Research Center
Johns-Manville

Monsanto Company
National Association of Home Builders

Robert Pigg
Richard Gross
Richard Guimond
W. Patrick Fiedler
David A. Smith
John Autry
John Lonnquist
K. Warren Easley
Dr. Michael Sumichrast

Staff

Breed, Abbott & Morgan
Government Research Corporation

Resilient Floor Covering Institute

John J. Campbell
Virginia Burdick
Faye White
Robert D. Maurer

President Clark presided at the meeting. Mr. Maurer was appointed secretary.

Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was voted to approve the minutes of the Institute Committee Meetings held on October 30-31, 1979 in the form in which they were mailed to the members.

Introductory Comments

President Clark introduced members who were attending for the first time and special guests. Discussions and Committee Reports, as noted below, followed.

Asbestos Legislation

Messrs. John Lonnquist and John Autry of the Johns-Manville Corporation reviewed past and current legislative developments relevant to compensation for asbestos-related disease.

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Government Affairs Report

Chairman Jack Scheckowitz introduced Virginia Burdick and Faye White of the Government Research Corporation. Such matters as Superfund Legislation for Hazardous Waste, Regulation of Carcinogens (EPA & CPSC), Federal Trade Commission (Voluntary Standards), and Product Liability were discussed.

Of particular importance to members was the development relevant to formaldehyde which is now being pursued by CPSC & EPA as having carcinogenic effects in rats. Formaldehyde is used in underlayment products, such as plywood, used by the resilient floor covering industry.

Environmental Protection

Mr. Richard Guimond, Branch Chief of the Special Regulation Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, addressed the membership on EPA's options for controlling carcinogens under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Mr. Guimond pursued EPA's "cradle to grave" approach on asbestos and possible regulation of it by the end of 1980.

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Mr. Richard A. Gross, Executive Director of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, reviewed the Commission's policy on carcinogens. The use of asbestos in resilient floor coverings was also discussed and, based on current information, Mr. Gross saw no immediate action on the matter by the Commission. The Commission, however, is expected to issue a General Order for Submission of Information on Consumer Products Containing Asbestos shortly. Resilient Floor Coverings are not expected to be noted in the general order.

Regulation of Chemicals

Mr. Warren Easley, Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Monsanto Company, updated members on the moves by the regulatory agencies to control carcinogenic chemical substances. EPA, in particular, has broad authority under TOSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act) to control the environment.

Technical Affairs Committee Report

Chairman John Hanson summarized the results of the Institute's study on asbestos in resilient floor coverings done by SRI International. Purpose of the study was to monitor for airborne asbestos fibers during conditions of use, maintenance, installation and removal of vinyl asbestos floor tile; and for sheet vinyl, monitor for conditions of installation and removal in asbestos-backed sheet.

SRI Conclusions for Vinyl Asbestos Tile. For in-use and maintenance, there is no exposure to airborne asbestos fibers. For installation and removal, the results of the tests show that when recommended procedures are used the exposure to airborne asbestos fibers is substantially below the allowed OSHA limit.

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SRI Conclusions for Sheet Vinyl. Results of the tests for installation and removal of adhered and unadhered asbestos-backed sheet vinyl when recommended procedures are followed show that the exposure to airborne asbestos fibers is substantially below the allowed OSHA limit.

Housing Market Outlook

Dr. Michael Sumichrast, Chief Economist and Staff Vice President for the National Association of Home Builders, provided an analysis for the housing industry. In the short term, housing starts will drop considerable, but are expected to pick up in 1981 through 1985. Recent study done by Dr. Sumichrast will be distributed to members through RFCI when available.

RFCI President Clark also updated the membership on the specific outlook for resilient floor coverings for the remainder of the year. Despite a slight general turn down in new construction, the overall vast remodel market will keep the demand for resilient floorings strong.

New Officers

RFCI new officers for 1980 are:

President, Jack Clegg (Kentile)
Vice President, James C. Murphy (Flintkote)
Secretary-Treasurer, Roger Marcus (Amtico)

Next Regular-Associate Meeting

August 14-15, 1980 - Hilton Inn Resort, Monterey, California.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Robert D. Maurer
Secretary

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