

Pittsburgh Corning Corporation
One Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

E. W. HOLMAN
Vice President
Technology and Manufacturing

March 19, 1970

Mr. Wendell R. Blair, Regional Director
U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
Office of Occupational Safety
Room 601
411 North Akard Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

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Dear Mr. Blair:

On April 8, 1969, you wrote a letter informing us that a recent Labor Department Survey of our Tyler, Texas, facility revealed several violations of the Safety and Health Requirements of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act. Mr. B. M. Stout, formerly Vice President, Manufacturing, for Pittsburgh Corning Corporation, wrote to you on July 2, 1969 and outlined the action our company would take to bring the Tyler plant into compliance with the provisions of the aforementioned act. This letter will serve to update your information as to our activities in this area.

Pittsburgh Corning Corporation's Central Engineering Department, with consulting assistance from Dr. Morton Corn, has completed detailed plans for a ventilation system to control asbestos dust at this plant. However, purchase and installation of the required equipment have been delayed for the following reasons:

1. Engineering estimates for purchase and installation of the fabric filters, ducting, etc. are quite high when considered against the very real possibility that such equipment may prove to be obsolete in the near future. As you know, a reduction of the Threshold Limit Value of asbestos from twelve to five fibers/cc is scheduled for May 1970. This new level will require a thorough review of the proposed ventilation system by Dr. Corn in order to assure its adequacy in meeting the new TLV, or possible further reductions in the TLV that may occur at a later date. Further reductions may make it impossible to control dust with the proposed equipment.

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Mr. W. R. Blair

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2. The equipment, on the other hand, may prove to be unnecessary. Pittsburgh Corning Corporation is vigorously pursuing development of a substitute material for use in its pipe insulation. Initial results appear favorable and we are optimistic over the possibility of marketing the new pipe insulation by mid 1972. Success in this area will completely eliminate asbestos from our product and greatly reduce the need for extensive ventilation equipment. (Note: Please treat the above information in a confidential manner).

For the above reasons, we request a temporary variance to the health requirements of the Walsh-Healey Act. During the variance period, we will take the following steps to insure health protection for personnel exposed to asbestos dust:

1. Continue the respiratory protection program in all manufacturing areas showing excessive exposure until such areas are brought under control.
2. Initiate a health education program that will fully explain to the employees the health hazards associated with asbestos exposure and how they can protect themselves.
3. Expand the periodic medical examination program for our employees to include not only chest X-rays as performed to date but also, on all employees with more than five years seniority, an extensive medical history and physical examination, and pulmonary function tests performed biannually. We have discussed such a program with Dr. George Hurst, Clinical Director of the East Texas Tuberculosis Hospital, who is interested in providing these examinations.

We would appreciate the opportunity of going over in detail the aforementioned points. If you think this is desirable we will be happy to meet with you in your Dallas office at your convenience. In the interim, if you require additional information or if I can be of further help, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

Eugene W. Holman
E. W. Holman

EWH/rb

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
7th Floor - 1512 Commerce St.
Dallas, Texas 75201

Authorized Representative of
Employees:
OCA, AFL-CIO Local 4-202
710 East Noble
Tyler, Texas 75701

1. CSNO NO. H-7734	2. REPORT NO. 1
3. AREA *1730	4. REGION 6

OSHA-1

SAFETY AND HEALTH REPORT

1. STATE 48	2. CITY 7070	3. EMPLOYER	4. INSPECTION DATE 11/23-24-29-30 & 12/1/71	5. SECONDARY COVERAGE PCA SCA CSA MAR OTHER				
6. NAME OF EMPLOYER, TYPE OF LEGAL ENTITY, AND ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE Pittsburg Corning Corp., subsid. of PPG Inc. & Corning Glass Works				7. TELEPHONE NO. (214) 577-3411				
8. STREET OR BUILDING (Place of Performance) Grencom Industrial District				9. ZIP CODE 75701				
10. CITY Tyler			11. STATE Texas	12. COUNTY AND CODE Smith - 23				
13. TYPE OF BUSINESS Mfg. of unibestos pine insulation				14. NUMBER EMPLOYED	15. ALL SHIFTS	16. LARGEST SHIFT		
17. CLASSIFIED CONTRACTS ☐ YES ☒ NO				18. SIC 3292	19. MALE	20. 57	21. 39	
22. MAIN PLANT ☐ BRANCH PLANT ☒ ONLY PLANT ☐				23. FEMALE	24. 3	25. 3		
26. TYPE		27. COMPLAINT		28. INSPECTION BY		29. TOTAL		
INITIAL	FOLLOWUP	YES	NO	Federal		70 42		
30. MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS CONTACTED C. E. van Horne William Tindler				31. TITLE Works Mgr. Works Acct.		32. EMPLOYEE INSPECTION REPRESENTATIVE(S) Ray Barron, Maint. Man and member of Workmen Union Committee		
33. MANAGEMENT INSPECTION REPRESENTATIVE(S) N. L. Tindler				34. Shift Supt.		35. OTHER EMPLOYEES CONTACTED (If no authorized employee representative)		
36. CLOSING CONFERENCE CONTACTS (Use the OSHA-1C for details) C. E. van Horne				37. Works Mgr.		38.		

1A. (1) DESCRIPTION OF WORKSITE
31. (1) CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS OR TYPE OF WORK AREA (including site)
Concrete blk. office 22' x 100'. Bldg. #1 eastside wooden frame, wooden sidng, 50' x 940'
production, warehousing & storage, Bldg. #2, Butler type structure warehouse & storage
40' x 940'

32. (2) TYPE OF FIRE PROTECTION
Sprinklered throughout, adequate CO₂, dry powder & Soda Acid fire extinguishers.

33. (3) DESCRIPTION OF PROCESSES (Raw materials, major processes, and products, etc.)
Raw material abestos (crossite fiber),
Silicate soda, Mineral wool, Snow-brite Clay and recycled scrap, ground and feed
duct system to bld. area, sprayed with solution of silicate of soda, rolled or mandrel
into various sizes of pipe insulation, placed on finishing rolls, coated & placed in oven
to dry and trimmed, split & packaged.

34. (4) SECONDARY COVERAGE-LIST FEDERAL CONTACT NUMBER, AND PREFIX (Details in OSHA-1C)

35. (5) DID YOU OBSERVE AN INJURY OR HEALTH HAZARD NOT COVERED BY A STANDARD? ☐ YES ☒ NO
IF "YES," SUBMIT AN OSHA-2 FORM.

36. (6) (1) WAS ADVANCE NOTICE OF INSPECTION GIVEN? ☐ YES ☒ NO TO WHOM? WHEN?
(2) IN YOUR JUDGMENT DID THE ADVANCE NOTICE ADVERSELY AFFECT THE INSPECTION? ☐ YES ☒ NO
IF "YES," EXPLAIN ON REVERSE OF THIS FORM.

37. (7) (1) DOES EMPLOYER MAINTAIN INJURY AND ILLNESS RECORDS AS REQUIRED? ☒ YES ☐ NO
(2) WERE FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO
(3) DOES EMPLOYER COMPLY WITH THE POSTING REQUIREMENTS? ☒ YES ☐ NO
IF "NO," LIST AS A VIOLATION ON OSHA-1A.

TIME INVESTED - TO NEAREST 15.0 HOUR						38. AREA DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE	
39. PREPARATION	40. TRAVEL	41. CONFERENCE	42. INSPECTION	43. REPORT PREPARATION	44. TOTAL	DATE 12/2/71	
						DATE 12/2/71	

(attached narrative)

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NARRATIVE

This inspection was made by C. R. Holder and John P. Boyle for the purpose of the Industrial Hygienist performing a survey to determine if employees were being exposed to excessive amounts of asbestos fines. A team from NIOSH had visited the plant at the request of the Texas State Department of Health and passed on to Regional Administrator John K. Barto the information that they felt extremely serious health hazard conditions existed at this plant due to employees being exposed to excessive amounts of asbestos fines.

The entrance interview was with Mr. Edmond Snavley, Works Accountant, and Mr. C. E. van Horne, Works Manager. The ARA and Industrial Hygienist properly identified themselves by presenting their identification credentials and the ARA explained that the purpose of the inspection was for Mr. Boyle to perform an industrial hygiene survey to determine if employees were being exposed to excessive amounts of asbestos fines. Copies of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, 29-CFR Part 1910, Handy Reference Guide, and Safety Standards magazine, dated May-June, 1971, were presented to them. Both of these employer representatives were familiar with the Act and when we informed them it would be necessary for an employee representative to accompany us on the inspection Mr. Ray Barron, Maintenance Man and Union Workman Committee member, who resides at 109 E. Grandville, Tyler, Texas, and is a member of O.C.A.W., Local 4-202, the authorized representative of the employees, was called to the office and he was briefed on the purpose of our visit.

Prior to starting the inspection a review of the accident reports was made and no serious injuries have resulted in this plant during the current calendar year. Prior to the employees' representative being called to the office Mr. van Horne was informed that if conditions were noted during the inspection that constituted alleged violations of the rules and regulations, that it could cause the company to be issued a citation of alleged violations and proposed assessment of penalties. Additional information as to other employees contacted can be found in the Industrial Hygienist's narrative report.

Mr. van Horne was informed that we would be taking pictures of the equipment and people at each test site and he voiced no objection.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
7th Floor - 1512 Commerce Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

NARRATIVE

1. CSNO NO. H-7734	2. OSHA-1 NO. 1
3. AREA *1730	4. REGION 6

EMPLOYER Pittsburg Corning Corp.

ADDRESS P. O. Box 3057

Tyler, Texas 75701

DATE 12/2/71

OSHA-1C

Page 1 of

1. Coverage Information: Manufacturer unibestos pipe insulation affecting commerce obtaining raw materials and distributing finished products.

3. Closing Conference Summary: Date 12/1/71, Mr. C. E. van Horne, Works Manager, C. T. Holder, ARA Compliance, and John P. Boyle, I. H., present. ARA informed Mr. van Horne alleged violations had been noted and that citation of alleged violations and proposed assessment of penalties would be issued. Mr. Boyle covered alleged violations noted and this portion of closing conference is covered in the I. H. narrative report. Mr. van Horne admitted knowledge of excessive concentrations of asbestos and stated company had requested variance. Copy of this variance request was furnished by van Horne and is in the file. Mr. van Horne did not object to proposed abatement dates or violations. No legal action expected.

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3. In your opinion, is a followup inspection necessary? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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GPO 5114

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

1. CSHO NO. H 7734 B-7504	2. OSHA-1 NO. 1
3. AREA * 1730	4. REGION 6

OSHA-12

SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM EVALUATION

PROGRAMS	YES	PROGRAMS	YES	PROGRAMS	YES
5 SAFETY PROGRAM		8 MEDICAL		10 ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Injury)	
Safety Staff		Pre-Employment Examination		Supervisor	X
Full Time	X	Placement		Committee	
Part Time		Hazardous Occupation	X	(1) Labor-Management	
Other Duties		Periodic	X	(2) Employee-Management	
NUMBER ON STAFF		Followup	X	Analysis	X
		Annual Examination	X	Corrective Action	X
		Sight Conservation	X	Followup	X
		Hearing Conservation		Enforcement	X
6 SAFETY COMMITTEES	YES	First Aid	X	Accident Investigation (No Injury)	
Executive		Doctor		11 INCENTIVE AWARDS	YES
Labor-Management		(1) Full Time		Supervisory	
Supervisory	X	Nurse		Employee	
Employee		(2) Full Time		Other (explain) At one time used stamp Reg. 1910.132	
Meetings		9 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	YES	12 PUBLICITY-PROMOTION	YES
Other (explain)		Foot Protection	X	House Organ	X
		Eye/Face Protection	X	Rules and Standards	X
7 TRAINING	YES	Head Protection <i>Hand/H Protection</i>	X	Posters	X
Training Staff		Respiratory Protection	X	Bulletin Boards	X
Type Programming		Hand/Skin Protection		Bally Meetings <i>March 17 Super</i>	X
Supervisory		Safety Belts		13 MANAGEMENT INTEREST	YES
Employee		Waste Hazards		Good	X
On the Job	X	(1) Life Vests		Lathing	
Personal		(2) Life Rings		Cooperative	
Other (explain) Superv. Attend Night Classes in 4 Ty for Coll. 1/4		Rescue		Injury Rate	
		Ear Protection		Costs (Injury)	

REMARKS:

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