

RPM

INTER-ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM

Add to Asbestos file

S-51

FROM Julius Nemeth

Always provide address to which reply is to be sent

TO Doug Wood -- BONDEX

cc: Jack Fleming, Jim Lacy

DATE January 14, 1982

SUBJECT _____

Please use a separate sheet for each subject treated

Dear Doug:

In view of all the problems we went through in terms of formulation change--can you believe the attached!

This article, of course, doesn't say that OSHA is going to recognize any difference, but, apparently, there are at least two or more qualified people that indicate that there is a difference with the two forms of Tremolite.

It doesn't make much difference now that the change is complete, but it sure cost a lot of time, effort, sweat and money.

Cordially yours,

JKN/zje

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

BOND-228

BON - 02147

Film Differentiates Forms of Tremolite

Norwalk, Conn., Jan. 5—In an attempt to correct an asbestos standard established by OSHA in 1972 that defines tremolite as asbestos and therefore a health hazard, R. T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc., a supplier of tremolitic talc, has produced a 20-minute sound and color film designed to prove that the main constituent of its products, tremolite, is not asbestos and is not an asbestos hazard.

The film, which has been shown to OSHA officials and numerous paint manufacturers, seeks to change "the mistaken impression that all tremolite is asbestos," a company spokesman says. OSHA is considering revising the standard but has not revealed when it will do so, the spokesman says.

The confusion arises from the fact that tremolite occurs in both an asbestos form and a non-asbestos form, but the OSHA standard does not differentiate between them.

Vanderbilt mines and mills only the non-asbestiform variety, which alone is present in ore in the company's mine at Gouverneur, N.Y.

Dr. Malcolm Ross, a mineralogist and asbestos specialist with the United States Geological Survey, and Dr. Ann Wylie, professor of mineralogy at the University of Maryland, appear in the film, and say that the problem with the regulation is that it does not recognize the existence of the two forms of tremolite.

Medical studies by the Health Research Institute of Fairleigh Dickinson University and Tabershaw Occupational Medicine Associates also are cited in the film as evidence that the tremolitic talc mined by the company at Gouverneur is not carcinogenic.

Despite the fact that the tremolite present in Vanderbilt's talc is non-asbestiform and unrelated to asbestos, the future of the product has been jeopardized because of the failure of OSHA to separate the two forms of tremolite, says the spokesman. This same lack of distinction casts doubt on the company's future and might cause many of its workers to lose their jobs, he adds.

Information Systems For Manufacturing Firms Topic of Conference, Show

New York, Jan. 6—The second Information Management Conference for Manufacturing, to be held April 29 in McCormick Place, Chicago, will include 60 sessions about information systems for manufacturing companies.

Session topics will include inventory control, material requirements planning, shop floor control, sales forecasting, master scheduling and marketing.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a group of nine sessions on advanced manufacturing concepts. It will be one of seven groups of sessions on various aspects of information management for manufacturing companies. Accompanying the conference will be an information management exposition featuring manufacturing companies: INI Manufacturing 82.

Information about INFO/Manufacturing 82 can be obtained from Clara Poliak, Inc., 245 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10167. Phone: (212) 661-8410.

Rust-Oleum Presents Sales Achievement Award

Vernon Hills, Ill., Jan. 6 — Rust-Oleum Corporation recently recognized American Wholesale Hardware, Beach, Calif., for its sales achievement in the consumer and industrial coatings market.

American Wholesale Hardware president Gene Anderson, sales manager Howard Van Horn and buyer Johnson were presented with an engraved plaque to commemorate the event. Rust-Oleum vice president-sales R. J. Zobel.

American Wholesale Hardware has been a distributor of Rust-Oleum coatings since 1963.

testing a tomato growing and harvesting system in the fertile Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. This could lead to FMC's purveying a complete seed-to-canned-tomato operation. International Harvester Co., of Chicago, has supplied the Russians with a test cotton harvester, and competitor Deere & Co., of Moline, Ill., is organizing an exhibit and seminar in Moscow.

Russian tests. The Soviets have bought pesticides and herbicides from such American companies as Stauffer Chemical Co. of Westport, Conn., and Rohm & Haas Co. of Philadelphia. FMC's pesticide Furadan is undergoing Russian testing, with a view to possible sales.

The Ford Administration wants to sell the Russians at least 8-million tons of grain a year over five years. But it attaches an important condition: early warning of additional purchases to prevent disrupting markets at home. The U.S. would also insist that its own grain needs, and those of such established customers as Japan, be covered. Officials say they are still talking about obtaining Soviet oil, but a wheat-for-oil barter deal is not foreseen. More likely, the U.S. would capitalize on the Russians' need for grain as a bargaining tool to get oil in return sometime in the future. ■

SAFETY & HEALTH

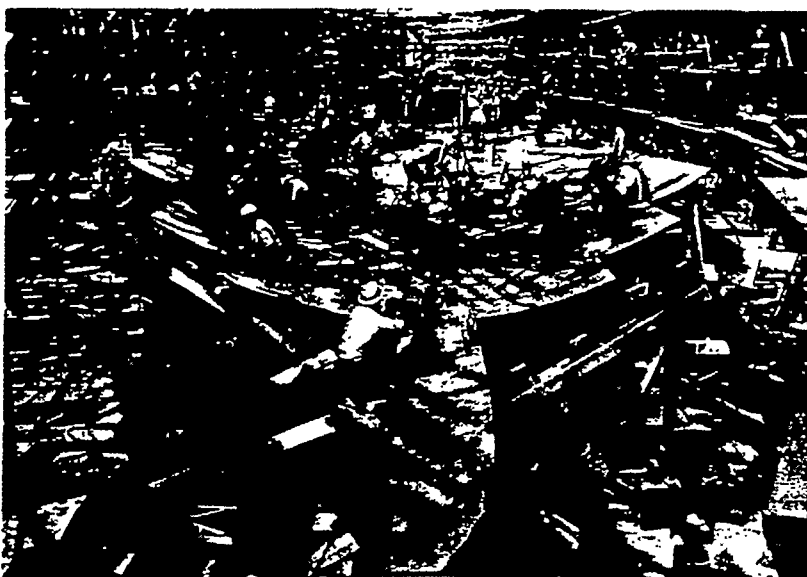
A grim cancer legacy from World War II

Some of World War II's 3-million shipyard workers may have a fatal, asbestos-caused cancer, and some angry cancer experts charge that the Navy has sat on this knowledge for nearly five years.

The Navy has already made a few cash settlements to former workers who contracted job-related cancer. But no effort has been made to track down affected workers, and the huge liability that might result could also affect private companies.

The American Cancer Society and Irving J. Selikoff, an environmental health scientist at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, want the Navy to track down former shipyard workers and warn them of their possible plight. The Navy is "sitting on a time bomb," says Selikoff, one of the nation's top asbestosis experts. "They are keeping this as quiet as possible, and I can't say that I blame them."

Asbestos has long been recognized as the cause of asbestosis, a lung ailment, and outbreaks of this disease among construction workers and those in the



The asbestos used in World War II ships may now spur a major hunt for cancer victims.

asbestos processing industries resulted in exposure and emission limits. But millions of pounds of asbestos were used to insulate pipes and valves in ships built during World War II with techniques since abandoned, and as long as five years ago reports started coming from Britain about a growing incidence among former shipyard workers of a fatal asbestos-caused cancer called mesothelioma, which strikes the stomach lining and chest cavity.

'Next month.' For several years, Selikoff and the American Cancer Society have been negotiating a study with the Navy to outline the extent of the problem. But according to E. Cuyler Hammond, an ACS director, "They kept saying they would begin next month but nothing would happen."

But if current theories prove true, this may be one of the most serious outbreaks of industrial cancer ever, and fear of widespread publicity seems to be forcing the Navy's hand. Captain George M. Lawton, director of the Navy's Occupational Environmental Health Div., told BUSINESS WEEK that he does not yet know the magnitude of the problem, but the Navy will study it.

According to Lawton, the Navy has already agreed to award workmen's compensation to former workers who contracted lung cancer or mesothelioma, but only a handful of awards have been made. Increased publicity could lead to a flood of claims.

Unwanted spotlight. The issue remains a Navy problem for the time being, but it may well hit the Maritime Administration, which funds construction of merchant ships, and private shipbuilding companies as well. "I'm not aware that this issue has been discussed in the context of the Navy situation," says Edwin M. Hood, president of the Shipbuilders Council of America. And a spokesman for the Maritime Ad-

ministration says his agency would probably not be liable for compensation claims since it neither owned the shipyards nor the ships built with its funds. Still, the entire shipbuilding industry may find itself in the spotlight as word of the mesothelioma and lung cancer hazard spreads.

It is unlikely that today's dockyard workers are contracting mesothelioma, since shipbuilding practices have changed over the last few years. Selikoff refuses to announce results of medical examinations on current workers, but he says the Navy has substantially cleaned up the environment for workers exposed to toxic substances.

Selikoff says there are sound medical reasons for trying to locate the World War II workers. Even though mesothelioma is incurable, other asbestos-caused cancers are not. "If you know who is at risk from asbestosis, you can cure many of the lung cancers, and even cancers of the colon," he says. ■

EXECUTIVE SUITE

Why irate women are calling Avon

Earnings may be on the rebound this year at Avon Products, Inc., the world's largest cosmetics company, but scores of female and minority employees are concerned that they are not sharing the wealth. Specifically, they feel that they have been denied the same promotions and pay raises offered to Avon's white, male employees.

For the first time, however, they are doing something about it. Many women have quit, while others have or-