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JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION
TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT SMF-11

July 12, 1966

Mr. John Boyer
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft
One Wall Street
New York, N. Y. 10005

Re: Sprayed Mineral Fiber Manufacturers Association

Dear Mr. Boyer:

Recently you wrote to me in your capacity as counsel of the above mentioned manufacturers association. You requested information for the members of the association concerning health hazards and the incidence of asbestosis or other respiratory diseases related to the use of sprayed asbestos products. I shall be happy to offer as much information as I have, but would like to make the following observations for your benefit.

As a representative of a manufacturer which sells the basic material but which does not employ many people to apply the product, I have no accurate records whatsoever concerning the incidence of pulmonary disease in such applicators. I have seen many reports in various journals concerning these health hazards but actually I doubt their accuracy. Most notable among the inaccurate ones are those written some time ago by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff and his co-authors. I believe that they are inaccurate because while the occurrence of disease and the statistics quoted may be perfectly correct, the basic definition of an asbestos worker was omitted leaving the implication that all so-called asbestos workers were exposed to asbestos fiber. This obviously is incorrect according to work performed in the trade.

This could turn out to be a very lengthy letter and whatever I say might not entirely suit your needs. Therefore, may I suggest that inasmuch as we both work in the same city it might be more advantageous to sit down and discuss this subject together at our mutual convenience. I would like very much to give you my impression of the whole problem for I do know that one exists. Following such a conversation I would be very pleased to confirm my impressions for you and the members of your association.

I have had the pleasure in the past of discussing mutual experiences and problems with two other members of your firm. Mr. J. Flocken who represents the Asbestos Textile Institute and Mr. G. D. Reycraft who represents the National Insulation Manufacturers Association have stimulated my interests and increased my knowledge of the legal problems associated with our various industries. I hope that I may have the opportunity of further increasing my information through discussions with you.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.
Medical Director