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Insulators Health Hazard Program

511 Machinists Building
1300 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 785-2150

May 14, 1975

Mr. W.C. Thurber
Union Carbide Corporation
Mining and Metals Division
270 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Thurber:

This is in reference to your communication of May 5, 1975 and the various information you supplied in regards to amendments to Senator Milton Marks' legislation. I would like to make the following comments.

1. I am deeply concerned over the handling of the dry materials such as the methods of mixing and the precautions and safety equipment which are to be used. What safety precautions and equipment would be used in the cleanup, especially of the overspray after drying?
2. I noticed the various percentages of asbestos that are in the different mixtures and find that they run as high as approximately 20%. We have many statistics to show that our people who have been exposed to less than the two fiber amount, which will become the law under OSHA next year, are still experiencing severe difficulties healthwise with asbestosis and the many other diseases associated with asbestos. This includes wives, children and other people who do not know they are being exposed to the above product. We are naturally concerned with asbestos exposure to anyone, regardless if they are affiliated or not with any individual union.
3. What consequences are experienced from erosion, abrasion, damage to the finished products, cutting, sanding, etc.?
4. Although you mention the use of just a small percent or amount of asbestos, I again question the amount which rises to approximately 20%. This is a greater percentage than many of the products we have used in the past such as pipe covering and flat block materials containing asbestos.

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We feel that we would have to take a very close look at the many different applications, including the overspray effect, before we could reach any conclusions regarding changes in Senator Marks' legislation.

We are not overly concerned about a wet or sealed in application but the effects before and after application is our main worry with asbestos in a dry state.

We sincerely hope that you can answer the above questions to our satisfaction and that a mutual understanding can be reached.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Roy J. Steinfurth
Insulators' Health Hazard Program

RJS:mgm

CC: Dr. Irving J. Selikoff
Senator Milton Marks
Dr. Bill Nicholson
Dr. Duncan Holaday
Mr. Ed Story