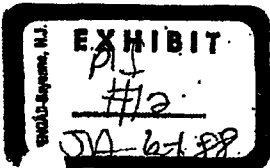


FILE NAME: Montello (MNT)

DATE: 1976 June 4

DOC#: MNT010

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from Montello to Dresser Minerals Inc.,
RE Defending Asbestos Usage



013532

June 4, 1976

Mr. Jerry E. Haston
Dresser Minerals International Inc.
P.O. Box 27/JKT.
Jakarta
Indonesia

Dear Mr. Haston:

Thank you for your letter of May 25th, with the enclosed article about asbestos. That article is an almost classic example of inaccurate, irresponsible, "scare tactic" journalism. Such sensationalism is a reprehensible and scandalous disservice to a trusting public, by an unprincipled newspaper whose only possible motive is financial gain through expanding circulation. It would take a book to fully clarify the concoction of half-truths on which Mr. Toulson bases his ridiculous but attention-getting headline.

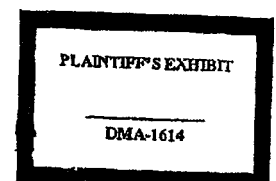
We will attempt to offer certain facts which we hope will provide you with a more balanced view of asbestos usage than the highly inflammatory and slanted one which Mr. Toulson has promoted. First, it has been recognized for many years that a group of respiratory diseases are related to asbestos. It is also known that these generally result from inhaling excessive amounts of asbestos dust over a long period of time, (20 to 40 years). Typical industries where a measurable increase of such disease is noted, are ones where workers were regularly exposed to high dust levels on a daily basis for many years.

As you know, workers exposed to asbestos in the drilling industry are only handling the material for a few minutes of each day, and they rarely if ever would have the job of "dumping" for half or more of their working life. Put another way, the exposure of workers in our industry is minute, compared with that of industries (i.e. mining, fabricating, insulating, etc.) where a measurable incidence of asbestos related disease has been found.

In 1972, stringent regulations were passed in the U.S., which called for a maximum ceiling limit and a time-weighted average for exposure of workers to airborne asbestos dust. These limits were based upon the concept of dust levels at which it was felt there would be no demonstrable risk to health. The regulations are still in effect.

Montello

P.O. BOX 130, SAND SPRINGS, OKLAHOMA 74063 / (918)-245-6661/TWX 910-840-3007



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Mr. Jerry E. Haston
June 4, 1976
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At that time, we co-sponsored a series of field tests to monitor the dust levels associated with drilling applications. A copy of those results is enclosed for your consideration. On the last two pages, you will note that in every instance, the levels found were far below the Federal standards. Subsequent monitoring tests have borne out these findings.

To further minimize the possibility of health hazard, our product (Super Visbestos) is in the form of crushed pellets. This is a substantial improvement over the dry ground, fluffy materials sometimes used. In addition, all of our production is in individually shrink filmed bags. This nearly eliminates "dusting" in the course of shipping, handling and warehousing. All this, coupled with the sporadic and short term exposure of workers in the drilling industry, should fairly lead one to conclude that the data on health risks associated with heavy, long-term exposure cannot be properly applied.

Mr. Toulson is quite right on one point. With its thousands of commercial applications, asbestos does indeed surround all of us. Fortunately, his likening it to spray of machine gun bullets is pure rubbish. Proof of his fallaciousness is not hard to find - - - our homes and offices and plants and streets are filled with people - - - not bullet-riddled bodies.

In conclusion, we will mention that we have worked closely with your own safety people in Houston. At present the appropriate Dresser office is headed by Mr. H. Robert Moseley, Jr. of the Petroleum and Minerals Group. You may wish to contact him for additional intra-company information.

We hope we have been of service to you, and are indeed sensitive to the problem you raise. It is most unfortunate that writers of Mr. Toulson's ilk are typically rewarded for such unwarranted and cavalier disservice to the public.

Sincerely,

MONTELLO, INC.

Kenneth N. Campbell

KNC/wj

Enc. (1)