



Mr. F. H. Larrison
Location 305
King City, California

January 17, 1974

Messrs. J. F. Emerson
W. J. Kavack
P. J. Morgan
J. W. Rawlings
E. A. Piersall

Booklet - "What Every Employee
Should Know About Asbestos"

As part of our continuing program to increase the awareness of our employees to the various asbestos health issues, I would suggest that the enclosed booklet from Johns-Manville be distributed to all employees of King City. This booklet has been reviewed by the Law Dept. (P. J. Morgan), the Medical Dept. (J. J. Welsh) and M&M Employee Relations (W. J. Kavack). To address the objections raised by Dr. Welsh, Bill Kavack drafted the attached cover letter for distribution with the booklet. This cover letter should be stapled to each booklet.

W. C. Thurber

WCT:es
Attachment

D R A F T

Dear Fellow Employees:

We have all read and heard a great deal about the potential hazards of asbestos and more specifically air borne asbestos fiber. Since asbestos is the basis for our products here in King City, I know we all share a concern as to how this affects us.

I am therefore enclosing a booklet that has been prepared by a major manufacturer in the asbestos business that I think you will find most informative on this subject. As you will read in the booklet "...you have no greater chance of getting bronchogenic cancer than the average person not occupationally exposed to asbestos who does not smoke." If this statement is true, the message is pretty clear we will be better off if we don't smoke.

I would like to add one note of caution, however. The inhalation of excessive quantities of free asbestos fibers over prolonged periods of time can increase the risk of developing certain diseases of the lungs -- even to nonsmokers. The best prevention is to follow the safety rules and regulations that we have established to meet these potential hazards.

If you have any questions on this subject, at any time, feel free to ask them of your supervisor or me personally.

Sincerely,

F. H. Larrison, Jr.
Manager - King City Operations

FHL/rtg
1/2/74



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION

270 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

To (Name) Mr. W. J. Kovack
 Division Mining and Metals Division
 Location 38th Floor
 270 Park Avenue

Date December 3, 1973
 Originating Dept. Medical Department

Answering letter date

Copy to Mr. W. T. Atkinson

Subject WHAT EVERY EMPLOYEE SHOULD
 KNOW ABOUT ASBESTOS

Dear Bill:

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, we have read the attached booklet and find it to be acceptable from the medical viewpoint except for the paragraph on page 3 entitled, "Now About Smoking." The second sentence in that paragraph reads as follows: "On the other hand, the asbestos industry workmen who do not smoke cigarettes--and who never have smoked regularly--show no greater incidence of bronchogenic cancer than the average man-on-the-street who does not smoke."

I phoned Mr. William B. Reitze, Manager of Accident Prevention and Industrial Health at Johns-Manville. I questioned this statement and asked for supporting medical literature. He referred to the work of Dr. Irving Selikoff. Since Dr. Selikoff's work is questionable at best, it is open to criticism; and more than likely this statement cannot be justified.

Even if we assume that such a statement is true, it may be misleading to the employees who may ignore the fact that heavy asbestos exposure leads to other conditions such as asbestosis and mesothelioma.

We have the same complaint about the statement on page 10, first paragraph, where they restate that "...you have no greater chance of getting bronchogenic cancer than the average person not occupationally exposed to asbestos who does not smoke."

Very truly yours,

John J. Welsh, M.D.

JJW:BA
 Attachment

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 DEC 5 1973
 M&M Employee Relations