UNION CARBIDE

December 15, 1975

Mr. U. Boduroglu
Manager, Engineering Services
Union Carbide Europe, S.A.
5, Rue Pedro-Meylan
1211 Geneva 17, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Boduroglu:

In reply to your letter of December 1 re any medical cases linking asbestos in a high-temperature furnace to cancer, the answer is no. However, asbestosis and cancer of the lung due to asbestos as well as another type of cancer referred to as a mesothelioma are known to follow years of exposure to asbestos dust.

The incidence of disease is greatly increased in smokers. The greatest incidence is in heavy cigarette smokers. Carbide unfortunately has had several cases of asbestos disease of the lung (asbestosis). The individual is removed from work with asbestos and advised to discontinue smoking. Our cases usually followed more than ten years of dust exposure in applying insulation to pipes. One case occurred in Linde where asbestos powder was added to a mix by a worker on a daily basis for many years.

Wherever asbestos can be eliminated by substitution, that has been done. In those cases where it is not feasible, then the dust exposure is reduced to 5 fibers per cubic centimeter for an 8-hour time-weighted average exposure, the ceiling being 15 fibers for any 15 minute period. This stringent standard is presently the law in this country, and we expect a tenfold reduction in the allowable limit and a ceiling limit cut in half from the present standard.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

John J. Welsh, M.D.

JJW:BA

Copy sent to Mr. T. Kunkel

033393

JOHN J. WELSH, M. D.
Telephone 551-3101

Letter

~~Dr Love~~

No. We've had cases linked to asbestos, but none in furnace gunite that I know about. If they can eliminate it it is a good idea, tho.

Ken

[redacted]

UCC 014443

For Information purposes.

~~JGH~~ For your info
~~CEM~~
~~[illegible]~~ 23/9
~~UB~~
~~RHB~~

23/9

RECEIVED
10 [illegible]
C.E. MEDFORD

42045 ucn s 35 september 10 1975 ug/iba

mr c e medford, uce

monday evening the swedish broadcasting and tv corporation and the swedish press announced that a medical doctor of the swedish confederation of trade unions had verified that eight workers employed at the enterprise nohab in trollhattan had died of cancer caused by asbestos.

in these circumstances we have decided not to use any asbestos in the plant from tuesday afternoon this week.

asbestos has been used as a tightening material between the grates panels and around the head electrodes in our graphitizing furnaces and will now be replaced by kaowool and rockwool. these two ceramic materials have earlier been tested for these purposes.

regards
ulf gustavson, ucn

23/9

4/13

22253b unca ch
42045 ucn s++

UNION CARBIDE EUROPE
SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME
5, RUE PEDRO-MEYLAN 1211 GENEVA 17 SWITZERLAND
CORRESPONDENCE TO: P.O.BOX 1211 GENEVA 17 SWITZERLAND

December 1, 1975

Dr. J. J. Welsh
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
270 Park Avenue, 4th Floor
New York City, New York
10017 U.S.A.

Re: Use of Asbestos in Graphite Furnaces

Dear Dr. Welsh,

Attached is a copy of a telex from Union Carbide Norden where the use of asbestos was discontinued as insulating material in between the grate sections in graphite furnaces. The action was taken because the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions announced the death of eight employees from a Trollhattan plant, due to cancer caused by asbestos.

Would you please let us know whether you have come across any medical cases linking the use of asbestos in a high-temperature furnace, to cancer.

Looking forward to your early answer.

Very truly yours,

U. Boduroglu
Manager, Engineering Services

UB:mk
Encl.

cc: Messrs. R. H. Beyer
C. E. Medford

REC
DEC 4 1975
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

CABLES: UNICARBIDE TELEX: 2 22 53 TELEPHONE: (022) 31 98 71

For Information purposes.

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