FILE NAME: US Gypsum (USG)

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cc: #151, B. W. Wies
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Asbestos and Joint Compounds

We have no major project directed towards eliminating asbestos in joint compounds. There is a national committee formed from industry that was established to develop some guidelines on the hazards involved in using asbestos. Paul Kipp and Marv Schmidt are involved in this effort.

We have an instrument to measure fiber content per cc of air and are currently conducting an experiment to measure the fibers released when joint compounds are sanded. We need to determine the extent of the problem before initiating a major project in this area.

We have made substantial reductions in our use of asbestos and are now down to a 2% level in Ready-Mix and only part of this is fiber as our purchased asbestos contains a substantial quality of rock dust.

We are aware of the hazards of asbestos and are keeping abreast of proposed regulations concerning its use.

JNW:jjl

TAB 28