



J. M. Briley - Toledo

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Additional N.I.M.A. Research Proposals

Erosion In Fibrous Glass Ventilating Systems

As you are well aware allegations have been made that large amounts of fiberglass escape into the air stream from ventilating ducts either constructed of, or lined with fiberglass. At the July 23rd combined meeting of the Health, Safety and Dust Committee of N.I.M.A. it was determined that the best way to document the validity as well as combat these allegations is to obtain air samples in actual installations of the various types of duct systems incorporating fibrous glass. This could be done relatively quickly and inexpensively. It would be anticipated that a study such as this would cost approximately \$5,000 for each sponsor. This cost would be borne by the N.I.M.A. producers of fibrous glass. Essential to this study is the choice of locations which meet N.I.M.A.'s recommended material and installation specifications, since either improper material or improper installation will likely result in fibrous glass entering the air stream.

Unless you have objections I will indicate to N.I.M.A., when asked formally, that OCF will be a sponsor for this study. I have discussed the matter at length with John Vyverberg. We both agree it is necessary.

Fibrous Glass Dust Exposure in Construction Workers

The foundation that Dr. Selikoff is attempting to establish is ostensibly founded to document the environmental exposures and develop suitable engineering methods of dust control of construction workers with particular emphasis on asbestos workers.

It would be of great value if an insulation industry study could reach the scientific literature prior to the actual establishment of Dr. Selikoff's foundation or at least before he publishes. Dr. Clark Cooper, of the University of California, published on asbestos exposures in construction workers in February, 1968. He incidentally gathered information on fibrous dust exposures in insulation workers, primarily members of the Asbestos Union. Informal contacts under the auspices of N.I.M.A. have demonstrated that Dr. Cooper feels additional data should be collected on fibrous glass exposures to complement the fibrous glass data he has at present so that a meaningful report could be published. Dr. Cooper is willing to undertake such a study for the stated price of \$52,000 to be spread over a period of a year and supported by the fibrous glass manufacturers in N.I.M.A. The OCF contribution would be approximately \$13,000.00.

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In summary, this study would be most useful since it would document the level of fibrous glass exposure under various installation conditions. It would precede any publication which Dr. Salikoff may make and would serve as a basis of comparison for any findings that Dr. Salikoff would report as well as require Dr. Salikoff to carefully document any variations from Dr. Cooper's findings. It would be expected that Dr. Cooper's article would also include recommended engineering procedures for control of building site dust exposures.

We will continue to negotiate the price of this study and when a firm figure is arrived at, I will inform you and request your approval. If you have any questions, please let me know.

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