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with Attached Report on Health Hazards of ASbestos

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Bcc: W.B. Reitze



UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
METALS DIVISION

270 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

July 3, 1975

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
of The City University of New York
Fifth Avenue and 100th Street
New York, New York 10029

Dear Dr. Selikoff:

Enclosed is a copy of a report just issued by our Technology Group which deals with the two questions you raised in our recent conversations regarding the potential health hazards associated with the spraying of asbestos. On the basis of simultaneous sampling and duplicate dust counting by Union Carbide and by a laboratory approved by the American Industrial Hygiene Association, no significant differences in dust counts were obtained. This supports the comment which I previously made to you that, if anything, our people tended to count on the conservative side. The data also indicate that in terms of fibers less than 5 microns not counted by the conventional procedures we found no significant differences between spray textures using Canadian asbestos and textures using liberated, highly-refined Calidria fibers.

I would also like to offer some comments on your June 3 1975 letter to Mr. Roy Steinfurth of the Asbestos Workers Union. My comments follow in kind with the three points enumerated in your letter.

1. In conversations with Mr. Steinfurth, I indicated that we would be willing to establish in any new exemptions to the Marks Bill that the field mixing of spray texture be precluded, although in our experience this operation can be handled with appropriate work practices. I felt that such a proposal would alleviate a major area of concern which both you and Mr. Steinfurth had expressed to me in previous conversations. This proposal was offered in spite of the fact that the OSHA asbestos regulations contain specific provisions directed toward the proper handling of such materials in the field. Philosophically, I find it unpalatable that the entire industry should be penalized either for the shoddy work practices of a few or the failure of the government to enforce its own standards. Nevertheless, in the interests of moving this matter forward, I have made this suggestion.

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2. Your letter indicated that one should not be asked to evaluate the dimensions of a problem for which data are incomplete. I am a little puzzled by this statement since I feel that we have presented a wealth of data obtained under field conditions using a variety of asbestos source materials, using a variety of application and post-application manipulation methods and with measurements made by several different sources. Results of approximately 100 tests have been provided. If the data showed wide variation, I would understand and share your concern, however, all of the dust counts are well below ceiling values of 2 fibers per cc. Early in our activities in this area, we recognized that such a criticism could be leveled against our data even though we felt it was sufficiently encompassing to define the environmental situation. Therefore, the proposed additional exemptions to the Marks Bill were narrowly drawn to cover only those matrix systems, binder levels and ranges of asbestos concentrations on which we had developed specific information. Given these narrowly drawn limits, technical considerations would preclude the use of these materials in applications other than those tested. We are not suggesting that anyone buy a pig in a poke.
3. The final point in your June 3 letter deals with the matter of fiber length distribution for those fibers less than 5 microns long obtained from different ore sources. As I mentioned previously, the attached report indicates no significant differences between Canadian asbestos and our material designated as "Calidria HPO." (HPO, incidentally, is our most highly liberated and refined product.) Further we did not find any fibers less than about 1 micron in length in any of the samples. I believe that our Mr. Chopra has discussed counting procedures with one of your electron microscopists and we would be happy to provide your staff with samples for duplicate determinations should you feel it appropriate.

After you have had the opportunity to review and analyse this report, I would look forward to the opportunity of again sitting with you to further discuss this. To that end, I will call you in the near future. As always I find our discussions stimulating and useful.

Very truly yours,



William C. Thurber
Product Manager - Asbestos

WCT:ns
enclosure

cc: Senator M. Marks
R.J. Steinfurth
E.H. Story

INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
ON THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF ASBESTOS AND HOW TO USE IT SAFELY

Material Safety Data Sheet & Typical Chemical & Spectrographic Analysis of
"Calidria" Asbestos
Testimony by George W. Wright, M.D. before U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Safety
& Health Hearing on Proposed Occupational Asbestos Standard, March 14-17, 1972
Testimony by J. Corbett McDonald, M.D. - same as above
OSHA Regulations
EPA Regulations
"Airborne Asbestos" National Research Council, 1971
"Airborne Asbestos" - Summary
"Airborne Asbestos" - References
Asbestos Bulletin (Asbestos Information Committee, London - 9/72)
CIBA CEIGY - UK 2/72
QAMA Folder
WHO Report - 10/72
Dust Counting - S. G. Bayer, R. D. Zummalde, T. A. Brown - Feb. 1969 (NIOSH/NIHW)
Dust Monitoring Equipment & Costs - 2/19/73
Instructions for Sampling of Airborne Asbestos Fibers
Procedure for Pump Calibration used for Monitoring of Asbestos Dust Emissions
AIA - "Protecting the Asbestos Worker"
AIA - "Asbestos and Health"
AIA - "The Asbestos Information Association/North America"
AIA - "Asbestos and Health Questions and Answers"
AIA - "What Asbestos Is: How and Where it Is Used"
AIA - "What Every Employee Should Know About Asbestos" - 2/74
AIA - "Asbestos In the Atmosphere"
AIA - "Asbestos in Water"
AIA - Molding & Fabrication of Asbestos-Containing Plastic Products, Work Practices
Partnership for Prevention - "The Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program"-4/70
Asbestos - Reprint from National Safety News - 10/73
"Asbestos Health Question Perplexes Experts," C & EN - 12/10/73
Disputes on the Safety of Asbestos - New Scientist 3/7/74
JLM - "Chrysotile Asbestos in Plastics"
Asbestos & Silica Dust in the Drywall Industry. Part 1-Nov./Dec. 1975
Asbestos & Silica Dust in the Drywall Industry. Part 2-Jan./Feb. 1976
Detection of Chrysotile Asbestos in Airborne Dust from Thermosetting Resin
Grinding - 1975
"Calidria" Asbestos Pellets - Health and OSHA Information
"Calidria" Asbestos RG-244 - Health and OSHA Information
"Calidria" Asbestos RG-600 - Health and OSHA Information
"Calidria" Asbestos Pellets - JLM, "ASBESTOS" - 10/71