

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
U.S. Post Office Bldg., Rm. 521, 5th & Walnut Streets
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

June 29, 1972

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

U-604

Mr. Dellar Rushing
1424 Kipling
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Mr. Rushing:

Reference is made to your letter of April 26, 1972 to Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Your request for a report of NIOSH findings regarding the asbestos exposures at the Pittsburgh Corning Corporation thermal pipe insulation plant in Tyler, Texas has been referred by the U.S. Department of Labor to NIOSH's Division of Field Studies and Clinical Investigations.

U.S. Public Health Service industrial hygiene surveys in 1967 and 1970 yielded grossly excessive asbestos exposures, and these results were forwarded to the company. In the summer of 1971, NIOSH reviewed the asbestos research data and contacted Texas state officials for follow-up. They had never seen the Tyler, Texas data. In October, 1971, NIOSH initiated and conducted a comprehensive industrial hygiene and medical survey. The results, which demonstrated a serious occupational health situation, were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Labor for appropriate action.

NIOSH informed the Texas Air Control Board about the potential for fugitive emissions from the open dumping of asbestos waste. Also, the company had sold burlap bags, which had been used for the storage of amosite asbestos, to nurseries in the Tyler area for wrapping the bases of rose bushes. NIOSH obtained a bag from a Tyler nursery, and shake tests in an exposure chamber in Cincinnati resulted in high intermittent concentrations of airborne asbestos. The Texas State Health Department was notified of this hazard.

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NIOSH has microfilmed the inactive and active personnel records of the plant and is planning a retrospective cohort mortality study in order to examine site-specific cancer and cardiopulmonary risk.

In January, 1972, NIOSH received the chest X-rays from the East Texas Chest Hospital for review by our expert panel of radiologists. Subsequently, all employees and authorized physicians have been informed of the medical findings.

Enclosed is a report of NIOSH's industrial hygiene and medical survey of October, 1971. If we can be of further assistance, please write or call us at 513-684-3256.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Johnson, M.D.
Acting Deputy Director
Division of Field Studies and Clinical
Investigations

(6) Enclosures:

Asbestos Survey - Pittsburgh Corning Corporation

Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970

NIOSH Fact Sheet

PL 91-596

Occupational Exposure to Asbestos

Directory of Governmental Occupational Safety and Health Personnel

cc:

Joseph K. Wagoner, Sc.D. Ryg. ✓

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Theodore V. Schoenborn (NIOSH)

Frederick L. Webber (OSHA)