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FORM 2102 REV. 4-1-38

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PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

BC: Mr. J. H. Bierer
Dr. L. B. Grant
Mr. R. C. Packard

March 19, 1970

Mr. Wendell R. Blair, Regional Director
U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards
Office of Occupational Safety
Room 601
411 North Akard Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

Dear Mr. Blair:

On April 8, 1969, you wrote a letter informing us that a recent Labor Department Survey of our Tyler, Texas, facility revealed several violations of the Safety and Health Requirements of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act. Mr. S. H. Stout, formerly Vice President, Manufacturing, for Pittsburgh Corning Corporation, wrote to you on July 2, 1969 and outlined the action our company would take to bring the Tyler plant into compliance with the provisions of the aforementioned act. This letter will serve to update your information as to our activities in this area.

Pittsburgh Corning Corporation's Central Engineering Department, with consulting assistance from Dr. Morton Corn, has completed detailed plans for a ventilation system to control asbestos dust at this plant. However, purchase and installation of the required equipment have been delayed for the following reasons:

1. Engineering estimates for purchase and installation of the fabric filters, ducting, etc. are quite high when considered against the very real possibility that such equipment may prove to be obsolete in the near future. As you know, a reduction of the Threshold Limit Value of asbestos from twelve to five fibers/cc is scheduled for May 1970. This new level will require a thorough review of the proposed ventilation system by Dr. Corn in order to assure its adequacy in meeting the new TLV, or possible further reductions in the TLV that may occur at a later date. Further reductions may make it impossible to control dust with the proposed equipment.

2. The equipment, on the other hand, may prove to be unnecessary. Pittsburgh Corning Corporation is vigorously pursuing development of a substitute material for use in its pipe insulation. Initial results appear favorable and we are optimistic over the possibility of marketing the new pipe insulation by mid 1972. Success in this area will completely eliminate asbestos from our product and greatly reduce the need for extensive ventilation equipment. (Note: Please treat the above information in a confidential manner).

For the above reasons, we request a temporary variance to the health requirements of the Walsh-Healey Act. During the variance period, we will take the following steps to insure health protection for personnel exposed to asbestos dust:

1. Continue the respiratory protection program in all manufacturing areas showing excessive exposure until such areas are brought under control.

2. Initiate a health education program that will fully explain to the employees the health hazards associated with asbestos exposure and how they can protect themselves.

3. Expand the periodic medical examination program for our employees to include not only chest X-rays as performed to date but also, on all employees with more than five years seniority, an extensive medical history and physical examination, and pulmonary function tests performed biannually. We have discussed such a program with Dr. George Hurst, Clinical Director of the East Texas Tuberculosis Hospital, who is interested in providing these examinations.

We would appreciate the opportunity of going over in detail the aforementioned points. If you think this is desirable we will be happy to meet with you in your Dallas office at your convenience. In the interim, if you require additional information or if I can be of further help, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

E. W. Holman

EWH/rb