

JM Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To F. L. Pundsack

Date November 28, 1978

From M. Harris

Copies

Subject ASBESTOS COMMITTEE



I am of the opinion that this committee is not functioning as outlined by McKinney at our first meeting. We have not as yet addressed some of the major policy matters that need more in-depth discussion. Also, we have had difficulty in finding a quorum for additional meetings.

As an answer to the latter problem, I am proposing that we pre-schedule our meetings on a monthly basis so that we spend the needed time in open discussions. I doubt if we can take care of everything in one or two meetings. Also, I will outline below some of the major policy issues, in hopes that better guidance and direction will come from these meetings.

- I. We need to better outline the function of this committee. Should it address policy matters only? Should it set the strategy only and make assignments to set and implement the tactics?

Should it establish priorities? If so, how? Should the decisions be committed to writing so everyone interprets them in the same way?

Or, should it decide on the strategy and resolve all the details of tactics to carry it out? How much detail does the committee want to become involved in?

Should we confine it to matters related to asbestos-health problems only?

II. U.S. ACTIVITIES

- A. Are we doing enough? We need to decide on suggestions for additional industry effort. Should we try to make a detailed presentation to every Congressman? To the Fortune 500? To every national and state and city bureaucrat involved in environmental issues? To every doctor in the U.S.? If so, who in J-M should coordinate? How much should J-M do and what is expected by outsiders? Where is the manpower and money coming from?

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II. A. Continued:

Or, put the question another way - are we trying to do too much? If so, what can be discontinued or transferred to outsiders, such as Raybestos, Certain-Teed, and others? As asbestos becomes a smaller and smaller percentage of our future profits, will our own emphasis change? When? What effect will this have on the questions above?

As we have usually been in the forefront in defending the industry, could this contribute to the fact that J-M is usually singled out? Is the fact that the media picks on us, and not others, of our own making? If so, should we get others to defend the industry and we take a back seat?

- B. How will we coordinate the upcoming OASHA hearings? Who is the overall coordinator? How much will J-M try to do and how much help do we need from outsiders? Who? With Kotin handling the medical side, who handles the legal, moral, political, business, and economic questions? Again, who from J-M and the outside?
- C. Who coordinates other hearings, such as the recent Congressional probes in San Francisco and Hawaii? Should this committee get involved in every hearing or should we have an overall policy for all future hearings? Are these hearings going to trend more to the legal, moral, economic, and political questions in the future?
- D. A.I.A.-North America. The consensus of the past committee meetings indicates agreement that this organization has been ineffective and cannot become effective in the future. Our current strategy is to abandon it. However, the tactics on how to do this without seriously damaging our customer relations is not agreed upon. Should we wait until after the OASHA hearings? If so, what role should AIA play in the OASHA and other hearings? Same question if we pull out and AIA carries on with a more limited budget?

In place of AIA, could a consortium of 3, 4, or 5 of the larger companies who have considerable resources become effective? How should this be organized? Who should coordinate?

III. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- A. AIA. We are members of the Asbestos International Association through our membership in QAMA and AIA-North America. It is an effective organization,

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III. A. Continued:

even though formed only two years ago. What happens if there is no more AIA-NA, or how will the U.S. be represented?

With the exception of Sweden and Norway, the asbestos-health issue is now under better control than in the U.S., with little help from J-M. Can we learn anything from this experience that will help our U.S. efforts?

- B. The British standard will be lowered to 1 f/cc very soon. How will this affect standards in the U.S. and elsewhere? What effect will this have on our customers and the demand for fibre?
- C. Q.A.M.A. To what extent does the committee want to monitor the activities and decisions of this organization? What effect will the Quebec Government ownership of Asbestos Corporation have on this organization? What authority should we delegate to Bob Hutcheson with regard to decisions being made within QAMA? What restrictions are needed?
- D. Eternit and other large customers. Communications with Eternit, particularly in the asbestos-health area, have not been sufficient. Who is responsible to correct this? When? Because of Eternit's importance outside the U.S., should we not have frequently scheduled meetings with them on this and, possibly, other subjects? What about other overseas companies who heavily impact the asbestos industry, such as Turner-Newall, Cape, James Hardie, etc.?

MH:cn

ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION/NORTH AMERICA
MEMBER COMPANIES

American Asbestos Textile Corporation	- J. L. Rainey
Atlas Asbestos Company	- George Barge
Cassiar Asbestos Corporation, Ltd.	- J. D. Christian
Cement Asbestos Products Company	- S. D. Weaver
Certain-teed Products Corporation	- W. E. Gatewood
Congoleum Industries, Incorporated	- J. R. Statson
The Flintkote Company	- A. R. Hooker
GAF Corporation	- Paul Weiner
Johns-Manville Corporation	- F. J. Solon, Jr.
Kentile Floors Incorporated	- C. A. Neumann
National Gypsum Company	- A. H. Fay
Nicolet Industries, Incorporated	- J. D. Whittaker
North American Asbestos Corporation	- C. G. Morgan
H. K. Porter Company, Incorporated	- E. C. Bratt
Raybestos-Manhattan	- J. H. Marsh
Supradur Manufacturing Corporation	- Kurt Schwarz
Union Carbide Corporation	- J. W. Rawlings
Uvalde Rock Asphalt Company	- H. Randolph Brown
Jim Walter Corporation	- Wes Sauerland