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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE
AIR POLLUTION

March 25, 1970

In L.B. Grant
File
Pitts Corning
Tyler Plant
Fullerton
TELEPHONE
412 - 861-6237

Mr. J. L. Hyde
Pittsburgh Corning Corporation
Research and Engineering Center
800 Presque Isle Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15239

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Dear John:

Re: Anticipated Lowering of Asbestos TLV and Tyler Plant
Design

I am writing to answer the question posed by Dr. Lee Grant (your letter, March 13, 1970) with regard to the anticipated lowering of the ACGIH TLV for asbestos from 12 to 5 fibers/cm³, and the ability of the proposed Tyler ventilation system to meet this standard.

As you know, we do not design ventilation systems to ensure a certain level of contaminant in the environment; we design to remove it completely from the source. However, whenever men and house-keeping practices are involved in the process, they introduce variables which design and fabrication procedures cannot take into account. The best ventilation system can be fouled up by poor house-keeping practices or procedures by operators which do not utilize the available ventilation facilities.

The Tyler ventilation system is the best one I can design for these process operations. The plant manager will have to be sure that the system is maintained to ensure proper hood face velocities and duct conveying velocities. If this is done, contamination will emanate mainly from scrap handling operations, which are poorly controlled at this plant and at the Port Allegany plant. There were many discussions of scrap handling practices at Port Allegany and my recommendation to discard the Butler Building was not accepted in the final analysis. The Tyler system design is essentially the same as that used at Port Allegany, but it does not utilize the Butler Building, which is an improvement.

In summary, the ventilation systems for Tyler and Port Allegany are excellent, with the exception of the scrap handling feature. If the 5 fibers/cc TLV is exceeded upon start-up, modification of the scrap handling procedures will be required.

Sincerely yours,

Morton Corn

Morton Corn, Ph.D.
Consultant

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