



PPG INDUSTRIES, INC./ONE GATEWAY CENTER/PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15222/AREA 412/434-3846

September 10, 1971

LEE B. GRANT, M.D.
Medical Director

Mr. Carl P. Olm, Manager
Pittsburgh Corning Corporation
P. O. Box 37
Port Allegany, Pennsylvania 16743

Subject: Medical Staff Visit Report - Port Allegany
September 6-9, 1971

At the request of Mr. Holman, the undersigned made the subject visit, the primary purposes of which were to (1) provide health education to the plant employees of Plant #8 as set forth in the Application of Pittsburgh Corning Corporation for a Temporary Variance from the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act Standard for Asbestos, which became effective August 31, 1971; (2) to discuss with Dr. William Johnson and his associates from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Mr. Charles Croop, President of the 1019 Glass Workers and the other union officers, and Plant Management, the proposed medical examination program for all plant employees to be performed by a United States Public Health Service team from Morgantown, West Virginia. A secondary purpose was to review progress and recommendations previously made by the undersigned and to discuss any aspect of the plant's occupational health program of particular concern at the moment.

1. Health Education

The undersigned met with employees working with unibestos at 3 separate meetings. The subject material as shown in Attachment #1 was discussed at each meeting. Dr. Johnson and his associates, as well as State Health Department Representatives, were invited to attend these meetings with the employees but they declined. Mr. Charles Croop was invited and attended each meeting and advised the employees that the union officers had considered and were in favor of both the company's request for Temporary Variance and the Public Health Service's proposed examination program as being in the best interest of the employees. He further urged that all employees participate in the examination program and give permission for the Public Health Service to send the findings to both their personal physician and Dr. Lee Grant. He said that only in this way would they gain the most personal benefit from this excellent examination. A summary of the medical examination program will be furnished to Plant Management. Mr. Richard Murray will provide a briefing similar to the one provided by the undersigned to all new employees coming into Plant #8 in the future.

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2. Meetings with N.I.O.S.H. and State Health Department Representatives

- a. Dr. Johnson requested to meet with the Union Officers and Plant Management together to discuss the proposed medical examination program, which they wanted to start Monday, September 13, 1971. Such a meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. on September 7. The following Union Officers were present:

Charles Croop, President, 1019 Flint Glass Workers
Elmer McQuillen, Vice President
Louis Duell, Secretary
James Lathrop, Committee Chief
Gerald Boorum, Treasurer

The union indicated strong support for the program proposed which will last about 1 week (3 employees every half hour).

- b. Dr. Johnson requested a tour of the Unibestos plant to be done prior to the above meeting. The undersigned suggested that Mr. Charles Croop be included in both the tour and discussions before and after. The tour and discussions commenced at 9:30 a.m. on September 7th. The old and new ventilation systems, the new Unibest line, the Employee Bulletin Board containing the O.S.H.A. Poster, the summary of the Application for Variance (Attachment #2), and the notice concerning the requirement for use of respirators (Attachment #3) were some of the items pointed out on the tour. The housekeeping at the time of the tour was excellent, which is the result of concerted efforts of all concerned (See Attachment #4). All employees and other persons in Plant #8 were observed to be wearing a respiratory (Comfo Mask, BM21B-90 Filter). The Respiratory Maintenance Program (See Attachment #5) was also reviewed and appeared to be effectively implemented.
- c. The undersigned asked about the Variance Report. Both the State and N.I.O.S.H. Representatives present said they were not aware of any actions or recommendations they would make or be asked to make in this regard. The Variance Report was completely discussed by the undersigned with both the State and N.I.O.S.H. Representatives.

3. Other Items Discussed and/or That Were Investigated During the Visit After Both N.I.O.S.H. and State Representatives Had Left

a. Fiber Matt Machine

Mr. James Lathrop, Union Committee Chief, expressed concern about lead exposure from this operation. The operation was reviewed by the undersigned with Mr. Croop, Mr. Louis Duell, Union Secretary, and Mr. Ted C. Burgason, Plant Engineer. The problem appeared to be a reduced exhaust fan efficiency in the ventilation system caused by the increased resistance in the exhaust ventilation system resulting from sending the exhaust through the "Multi Wash Collector" prior to being exhausted to the outside, instead of directly outside as had been done previously. As a result of this reduced exhaust ventilation capacity, the lead based paint pigments sprayed on the fiber glass matt are escaping into the working environment.

It was recommended that the fan capacity should be increased so that 200 linear feet of air per minute is pulled across the face of the paint booth where the operator may stand. Also, the State should be asked to take lead in air samples, both around the operation and in an adjacent lunch room when the operation is running. If lead is present in the lunch room air, filtered air should be introduced into the room, the windows kept closed so as to prevent potentially contaminated air from the Finishing Department from flowing into the lunch room.

b. Noise Control Program

Previous industrial hygiene surveys have shown noise level readings in excess of 90 dBA. The recently revised PPG Noise Control Program was reviewed with Mr. Richard Murray. It was suggested that this program should be implemented to assure compliance with the recently established Federal Noise Standard. It appears that the plant is not in compliance.

c. Medical Recordkeeping and Medical and First Aid

The present lack of an in-plant medical facility and the practice of treating injuries by various supervisors, out of First-Aid Boxes scattered throughout the plant is very poor Industrial Medical practice and results not only in improper supervision of the treatment of injuries and illness but makes compliance with the recordkeeping requirements of O.S.H.A. very difficult, if not also compliance with the medical and first aid requirements. The undersigned offered to assist in the planning and development of the first aid room to be adjacent to and operated by guards trained in first aid which was described to him by Mr. Olm. The effort to implement the reporting requirements under the Act should not be delayed further, however, this requirement became effective July 1, 1971. At present it appears that the plant is not in compliance with either the recordkeeping or the medical and first aid requirements.

Lee B. Grant, M.D.
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Medical Director

LBG:lc

Enclosures

cc: Mr. E. W. Holman
Mr. G. S. Gregory
Mr. R. Murray
Mr. W. Farkos

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