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PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

Mr. J. H. Bierer

E. W. Holman

UNIBESTOS Dust Collection

August 26, 1969

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Although it has been known for many years that long exposure to air borne asbestos fibers could cause the disease, Asbestosis, it is only during the past several years that extensive work has been done to establish the threshold or dangerous level. This work indicated that to adequately protect people working continuously with asbestos products, the dust count (the number of air borne fibers per cubic foot of air) must be considerably lower than previously thought. This, along with the emphasis being placed by the State and Federal Governments on elimination of hazardous working conditions, necessitated a thorough re-examination of the UNIBESTOS plants operated by Pittsburgh Corning Corporation.

As a result, Dr. Morton Corn, a Consulting Engineer and an authority in the field of industrial hygiene and air pollution, was contacted to assist Central Engineering in this survey. Both the Port Allegany, Pennsylvania and Tyler, Texas plants have been surveyed and in both plants many areas had a dust count well above the threshold limits.

On February-13, 1969, Mr. M. Padilla, Industrial Hygienist for the U. S. Department of Labor, visited the Tyler plant. The measurements made by him also indicated that the dust collection system was inadequate and that the dust count in many areas throughout the plant exceeded the threshold limit. This inspection resulted in a letter dated April 8, 1969 to Mr. J. H. Bierer, President of Pittsburgh Corning Corporation, from Mr. L. Blair, Regional Director of the Office of Occupational Safety in the U. S. Department of Labor. The letter stated that the Tyler plant did not meet the health and safety requirements of the Walsh-Healy Public Contract Acts.

It is obvious from both a moral and legal standpoint that if Pittsburgh Corning continues to operate the UNIBESTOS plants at Port Allegany, Pennsylvania and Tyler, Texas, adequate steps to protect the employees must be taken.

Dr. Corn was again retained as a Consultant to assist in the design of dust collection systems for both UNIBESTOS plants that would reduce the air borne dust below the danger level.

At this time the Port Allegany system has been designed and an Appropriation Request for \$129,522 has been submitted.

The engineering for the Tyler plant is in progress and an Appropriation Request for this plant will be submitted in the near future. Although a firm cost has not been established for the Tyler plant, preliminary calculations indicate that it will not be less than \$130,000.

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Therefore, a minimum of \$260,000 is needed to install adequate dust collection in both UNIBESTOS plants.

It is recommended that before an expenditure of this magnitude be made, a thorough study of the profitability of UNIBESTOS be made to determine whether or not the expenditure can be justified.

Yours truly,

T. W. Holman

EWB/rs

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