TF-5502

UNION CARBIDE INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS

P. O. BOX 471, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590

TO (NAME) Mr. H. R. Guest
COMPANY
LOCATION TECHNICAL CENTER

DATE July 27, 1972

COPY TO Messrs. D. H. Glenn, M.D.
R. C. Hieronymus NYO
Dr. L. P. Jehle NYO
J. H. Rapp
D. R. Reem
R. L. Yelton

SUBJECT ASBESTOS DUST MONITORING
Texas City Plant

Dear Howard:

In response to your telephoned request July 25, 1972, attached are the available asbestos dust study data. No data is yet available for other Gulf Coast locations, except for some personal observations.

Several thoughts should accompany the attached data:

(1) Data is not complete and is insufficient for weighty conclusions except as they relate to the conditions at the time of sampling.

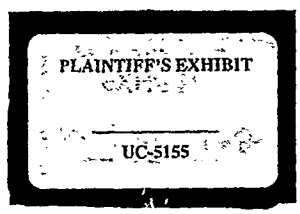
(2) Fiber counts are from short-term sampling periods and do not necessarily represent the required time-weighted averages.

(3) Only "ball park" ranges are evidenced.

(4) Since Texas City is the *only* Gulf Coast Plant with an insulation shop with any type local exhaust ventilation, it may well be anticipated that concentrations will be higher elsewhere. I have personally observed manual sawing without protection at the other three plants.

(5) Asbestos is apparently still being used extensively in spite of reported "phase-out."

(6) Other asbestos uses are of concern, especially since they will also require the prescribed medical program. These include gasket cutting, which is done in virtually every unit at Seadrift, the handling of asbestos Filter-Aids (Johns-Manville Fibra-Flo varies from 50 to 100% Chrysotile), and the cutting, drilling, and erecting of transite walls, roofs, and pipe.



Mr. H. R. Guest
Technical Center

July 27, 1972

In short, it is my opinion from preliminary inspection that we have a long way to go to be sure of complying with the permanent regulations. Each Gulf Coast facility has ordered the necessary materials for sampling. After we have completed surveying the four plants as "OSHA inspectors" and have reported the results, our next project is to tackle asbestos monitoring in considerable detail and complete it prior to the December 7 deadline. Since fibers of concern are microscopic, efforts to second guess monitoring results would be risky business.

Please contact me if there are questions.

Very truly yours,

D. E. Deese
Senior Industrial Hygienist,
Gulf Coast Area

DED/eb
Encl.