M. Hardwick

→ Dick Shannon Copies to B.E. Boyd, R.S. Ernst, J.H. Thomas

C. G. Staelin - Toledo

Wayne Johnson - New York

October 27, 1966

F. H. Edwards - Toledo
D. W. Ladd, Jr. - New York

HEALTH HAZARDS

You asked for our recommendations on health hazards which are shown below. Before we get into them, however, you should understand some of the background.

This is more than a union dispute between the asbestos workers and the sheet metal workers over who is to put in the insulation on duct systems. We know of investigations being carried on by the University of California and Mount Sinai Hospital (both with Federal funds). There is rumor of one at MIT; Congress has been interested; and the entire problem of environmental hazards is receiving a new look. So far as we are able to determine, there is no evidence that glass fibers of any size or diameter cause cancer, lung disease, etc. On the other hand, there is enough smoke about asbestos so that it is our layman's opinion a fire is involved. Surveys of union locals in Cincinnati, New York and New Jersey reveal a substantially higher incidence of cancer than the general population, and no reason has been brought forward except exposure to asbestos.

OCF cannot disassociate itself from asbestos, as we buy nearly one million dollars worth as reinforcement for Kaylo. It is conceivable that there will be state or Federal legislation restricting the use of asbestos in insulating materials. Already, Bath Iron Works has notified the Navy they will not use insulation with more than 20% asbestos fiber because of the death of an employee.

New England Insulation has reported the first state claim against Kaylo. A workman engaged in making fittings from Kaylo has allegedly contracted asbestosis and is claiming Workman's Compensation on that basis.

We have good evidence of the safety of glass fibers but it has not been pulled together, edited and published by a recognized medical authority who is not associated with, or hired by, Owens-Corning. In our opinion, we should do three things:

1. Ask a reputable, independent medical authority to review our records, and any others he may need, and publish his findings on glass fibers.

2. With this background of medical fact, we should launch a publicity campaign on the safety of glass fibers.

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3. We should again investigate the use of other reinforcing materials in Krylon.

After you've read this over, please telephone and discuss further. Mr. Edwards, no doubt, has another point of view which you will wish to obtain.

There is urgency in this matter -- branches are calling or writing in for guidance; our franchised Contractors are asking advice on what they should do; and we may well start loeing specifications. A program with due dates and responsibilities is required.

Wayne Johnson

WJ:dt

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