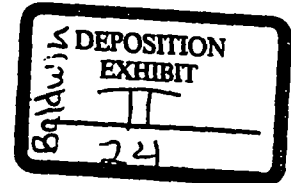




Office of the President

APR 25 1966

April 22, 1966



Mr. Russell Brittingham, President
Pittsburgh Corning Corporation

Subject: Health Implications of Asbestos Dust Exposure

1. I am sure you are familiar with the recent concern for the health of both the general public and employees who have allegedly inhaled asbestos and fiber glass materials. This concern has been stimulated by public news media articles attributed to Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, a New York physician. It is the opinion of many persons within the scientific community that the statements attributed to Dr. Selikoff are not scientifically sound. It is difficult, however, to refute such statements because of the lack of published scientific data to the contrary. Little has been published on the health experience of industrial workers employed in the manufacture of products containing asbestos and fiber glass. Also, more needs to be done in the way of laboratory research in an attempt to further identify and delineate the problem.

2. The Industrial Hygiene Foundation of Mellon Institute has made a proposal to perform laboratory research on the inhalation of fibrous materials including asbestos and fiber glass. They are soliciting monetary support for this work from interested industry. Several days ago, I attended a meeting to which their proposal was discussed. I have attached a Memorandum for Record concerning this meeting which may be of interest to you. I believe the Industrial Hygiene Foundation proposal is worthwhile and should be supported by industry as a matter of self-interest.

3. The National Insulation Manufacturers Association (NIMA) at an April 12, 1966 meeting decided to establish a Health and Safety Committee which will consider appropriate measures "to combat adverse opinions with respect to the health and safety aspects of thermal insulation (asbestos and mineral fiber)." This committee is scheduled to meet on May 10, 1966, in the NIMA office in New York. The Industrial Hygiene Foundation's "research

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proposal," as well as the ways and means of better utilizing our industry-wide health experiences, appears to be appropriate subjects for the NIMA Committee. Inasmuch as I am a member of this Committee, I would like an expression of opinion from you concerning the degree to which Pittsburgh Corning Corporation is willing to:

- a. financially support the Industrial Hygiene Foundation's research proposal
- b. participate in an industry-wide health and environmental study of industrial employees engaged in the manufacturing of asbestos and fiber glass products.

Lee B. Grant, M.D.
Lee B. Grant, M.D.
Medical Director

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