

FILE NAME: Owens-Corning (OC)

DATE: 1956 Feb 6

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from The Saranac Laboratory from Dr. Schepers with Cover Letter



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OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS CORPORATION
INTRA-COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

X

General Offices—Toledo, Ohio

February 8, 1956

Attention of

✓ Dr. Charles Bishop - Newark (Medical Department)

From

John D. Black - Toledo

cc: Mr. M. D. Burch - Toledo
Mr. W. Alkman - Toledo

Subject

Dear Dr. Bishop:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received today from
Dr. Schepers of Saranac Laboratory.

Wish you would read this and give me your thoughts with
regard to its contents.

This is certainly not what I had in mind when I asked
Dr. Schepers to give us a letter incorporating favorable statements
based upon past experiments with Fiberglas in the laboratory.
I personally do not like the general tenor of this letter. It
is certainly nothing that we could show customers or a union.


Legal and Patent Department

JDB/rgj
Enclosure

RETAIN

1 Year
6 Months
Destroy Now
Other

91 501 1312

WHY FILE THIS?

THE SARANAG LABORATORY
For the Study of Tuberculosis, Occupational Diseases, and Industrial Hygiene
Founded by EDWARD LIVINGSTON THURMAN in 1925
7 CHURCH ST., SARANAG LANE, NEW YORK

P.O. Box 351
Reference

February 6, 1956

Telephone: Laboratory 612
Director 438

Mr. M.D. Burch
Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
P.O. Box 901
Toledo, Ohio

**DEPOSITION
EXHIBIT**

Dear Mr. Burch:

Peela-17 9-70-57

On the occasion of their recent visit here to inspect our progress with the study on the pathogenicity of fiberglas, Dr. Bishop and Mr. Black mentioned to me that this research project falls under your general supervision.

To facilitate your task of explaining to lay personnel, who might be interested in the results of our experiments, just what a product like fiberglas may be capable of doing to man, herewith a few preliminary comments. Please do not hesitate to call for further elucidation as need arises. I will do my best to inform you fully about what we already know and will not hesitate to tell you directly where the limits of our own and also other researchers' limitations lie. You may have difficulty with published statements too. Please feel free to consult me at any time about such matters if you believe I can be of help to you.

Firstly, the following is the status of our current experimentation on fiberglas:

Product Studied	Method	Type and Number of Animals Used	Stage Reached	
1 Fiberglas with Calcium Sulphate filler	Intratracheal	Guinea pigs 10	Completed at 12 months	Chemical and Histological Studies in Progress
2 " " " " "	"	Rats 10	" " " "	" " " "
3 " " " " "	"	Rabbits 5	" " " "	" " " "
4 Fiberglas with Calcium Carbonate filler	"	Guinea pigs 10	" " " "	" " " "
5 " " " " "	"	Rats 11	" " " "	" " " "
6 " " " " "	"	Rabbits 7	" " " "	" " " "

(continued on page 2)

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Page 4
Mr. M.D. Burch
Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation

February 6, 1956

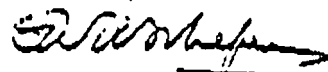
It is imperative also that we determine how rapidly and completely fiberglass dust is eliminated from animal tissues and whether, if it is expelled after dust exposure has stopped, this is accompanied by reversal of those tissue reactions we have already observed. No doubt you will readily perceive the medico-legal importance of such information. We should also prolong the exposures for at least another year. In the case of our earlier glass wool asbestos and talc studies we showed that unfavorable results sometimes ensued during the third year of exposure while they remained in abeyance previously.

A fourth avenue yet to be explored more satisfactorily would be a study on the capacity of the fiberglass to induce lung cancer. There is so much propaganda over the issue of lung cancer today that one cannot omit this study, either to clear the product of all potential blame or to discover in time whether it holds such a danger. I suppose you already know that asbestos is fairly well incriminated as a carcinogen and the asbestos causes lung damage by virtue of the length of its fibers. A property it shares with the fiberglass. Various polyester resins have already been incriminated as carcinogens so that one must remain cautious about the fiberglass resin until it has been cleared.

Finally, in view of the evidence we already have that the fiberglass dust facilitates the development of tuberculosis, this study should be expanded to include the third superimposition phase of the tubercle study, i.e., to determine whether prior exposure to the dust will stimulate tuberculois. Reference to the foregoing tabulation reveals that we have already instituted the investigation on the simultaneous phase and the reactivation phase. Such a large proportion of our rabbits died in the dust room that we believe the studies on them should be repeated. Deaths may have been due to an intercurrent epizootic and not due to the fiberglass dust. If a new set of animals could be studied, the suspicion that the dust may have caused the deaths of the rabbits would either be verified or rebutted. None of the guinea pigs died spontaneously and we are inclined to believe the rabbits died of causes other than the dust, but unless we can repeat this phase of the study, the record will remain unfavorable.

I look forward to meeting you at some time in the not too distant future, and hope the foregoing information will be of some value to you meanwhile.

Yours sincerely,



G.W.H. Schepers, M.D., D.Sc.
Director

GWS:mas

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Processed in Canada under seal by order of
Judge Paul A. Roy and Gordon Ross.
October 18, 1988. In Canada v. [redacted]
at 11, 17-11210

Steve Mayer - 1/78

Jon L. Kossman, M.D.

August 29, 1972

ASBESTOS-FREE KATLO

DuPont-Corning Fiberglas Corporation has for many years marketed under the trademark KATLO a calcium silicate asbestos containing high temperature product. During the manufacture and installation of KATLO products, airborne concentrations of asbestos containing dust are generated. Because asbestos is known to cause a fibrosis of the lung called asbestosis, carcinoma of the lung tissue and malignant mesothelioma of the covering or pleura of the lung extensive, stringent and costly engineering controls and medical monitoring of exposed employees has been necessary.

In areas where engineering controls were not feasible, either in the plant or at the site of application, it has been necessary to wear protective respiratory equipment. Respirators are a poor second choice for protection of the worker.

Largely for reasons of health of exposed workers, asbestos-free KATLO has been developed. The asbestos has been replaced with fibrous glass. To date, observation of workers - some of whom have been exposed for over thirty years - has not demonstrated chronic, adverse pulmonary effects from exposure to fibrous glass. From a medical standpoint, fibrous glass is an excellent substitute for asbestos in the KATLO product.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the above statement would you please contact me.

JLK:mga