

FILE NAME: Owens Corning (OC)

DATE: 0000

DOC#: OC141

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: BC Notes on OC Docs from 1940s

Owens-Corning Documents from the early 1940's

1. 12-10-43 Heath memo mentions that Celotex currently has an asbestos board product (p. 3) Cemesto Board. O-C wants to make an asb-fiberglass board.
2. 9-8-41 O-C Legal and Patent Dept. ordered reports from GPO of 1)Page and Bloomfield and 2) Lanza et al. for 15¢; reports on file were received September 15, 1941.
3. 5-23-41 St. Louis section meeting of A.I.H.A. included O-C discussion of lower workers' comp insurance rates for fiberglass than asbestos using manufacturing industries 66¢ and 95¢ per \$100 payroll vs. \$1.00 and 1.10 (p. 5) Millman of Aetna said they don't think glass mfg. workers are subject to a special hazard -- oh, he was speaking as a bottle mfr. (p. 7).
4. 6-16-41 incomplete, 8 pp. mentions Dr. Siebert's research on fiberglass for O-C as well as work by Gardner. Lanza also cited by name only.
5. 9-8-41 O-C Legal and Patent Dept. return letter sends the above reports (see 2) back to Owens-Illinois' WG Hazard.
6. June 1, 1941 Aetna letter reprinted featuring low comp rates:

"(W)e feel the hazard is much less than in the manufacture of rockwool, Slagwool, Asbestos, or any of the so-called 85% magnesia products."

7. 1-7-42 memo from Ames to Marshall "ASBESTOS WORKERS UNION" mentions PHS Bull. 241 "on asbestosis". This and other single page memo speak of the company proving its commitment by purchasing product liability coverage to show the Union that the insurers also agree that the risks to health are low.

8/ 12-27-(41, 42, 44, or 47) to Gregory on Public Relations --

"In formulating our policy on admixtures with asbestos, we should keep on the alert because otherwise we will run the risk of smearing Fiberglas with the hazards of exposure to asbestos."

suspects that magnesia manufacturers had "unholy alliance" with the union, prompting the union to ask for premium pay to work with Fiberglas

acknowledges the "itch" problem

9. 11-21-44 and 11-22-44 letter to Dr. Canfield and "draft" letter from Canfield the day earlier back to Ames, saying that an insulator was disabled with asbestosis.
10. 4-25-55 RW McArthur memo to Williams mentions that a premium wage is again asked by Albany NY asbestos workers local union; for work with rock or glass wool. Then, it adds:

Part of the problem has arisen as a consequence of a ~~report that the community was slaying the local business~~ *hospital* *business poisoning.* *reporter for Van Alstine the local business report that he cannot work*

11. 8-20-56 memo with attached letter from Shhepers "which we feel would be most helpful if we were faced with a lawsuit in which his original reports (on fiberglass) were being used against us."
12. 10-11-56 ASBESTOS WORKERS UNION memo speaks of investigations made by the Hartford, CT local into lung disease in the union. on X-ray, "quite a few of the members showed a cloudiness in the lungs...Recently, one of their members died and they are having an autopsy performed to determine if he suffered from what they call "asbestitosis"... My great concern is that they keep talking about glass in their lungs." Memo stamped, "WHY FILE THIS?" brought to the attention of the Legal and Patent Dept.

also mentions that the union has taken up the question of classifying their trade as a "hazardous one" with Ernest Johnson, Massachusetts Labor Commissioner.

11-20-56 Brought & Assoc. consultants report to C-C's Burch that better union relations at the local level are the key to less threats against Fiberglass.

13. 5-9-57 Brought letter and company memo mention again that workers want a
5-23-57 premium to work with Fiberglass. This mentions a union meeting where "The problems of Asbestosis and Silicosis were discussed."

The latter, a memo "ASBESTOSIS" says,

"I am sure that everyone in our company is conscious of the interest of the Asbestos Workers in the problems of Asbestosis and allied diseases."