FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

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In reply refer to L.H.

C C P Y

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TRENTON 7

November 17, 1944

Mr. J.E.Regert, Plant Manager
Johns-Manville Corporation
Manville, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Regert:

Recently, representatives of our Bureau of Industrial Health visited your plant to make a detailed study of dust conditions in the textile department. Through the courtesy of Mr. E. A. Toohey, Safety Director, and Mr. Jackson, Department Supervisor, our representatives, namely, Mr. J. C. Radcliffe and Mr. L. F. Weller were able to sample all areas freely and obtain all pertinent information.

All samples were collected at the operators breathing level in representative working areas. The laboratory procedure followed standard methods using the light field technique and results are expressed both in terms of total dust count and in total fibre count. The maximum allowable concentration of total asbestos dust is normally accepted as five million particles per cubic foot. This standard makes no allowance for fibre count which more recent studies have indicated may be of primary importance.

As a result of this study the following recommendations are made to assist you in the further development of your environmental control.

1. Dry Brake Lining Weaving

From the results of sample number fifteen it is indicated that some method of dust control should be installed for all dry brake lining weaving operations. If these operations could be done wet the control would probably be adequate, otherwise a regular local exhaust system should be installed.

2. Cloth Weaving

Results of samples numbered thirteen and fourteen indicate that the present methods of exhaust are adequate, but the operators must be instructed to use their exhaust apparatus correctly or concentrations of asbestos dust will build up above the maximum allowable concentration.

3. Fiber Break-up

Results of sample number one indicate that the operation of the chaser mill and the filling of the pneumatic conveyor hopper might cause high dust concentrations. More care in the handling of these fibers would probably reduce this concentration, and it is advisable to caution the operators in this way.

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TRIAL EXHIBIT

4. Mule Spinning

Results of sample number eight are not conclusive enough to demand immediate action. Further sampling around these machines should be made.

5. Bin Unloading and Weighing

Results of sample number three are above the allowable limit, but the continual use of respirators by these operators gives adequate protection here.

Our Bureau of Industrial Health is interested in all phases of plant health protection. Feel free to call on them whenever the occasion arises.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. Lynn Mahaffey, M. D.
Director of Health