

FILE NAME: Johns-Manville (JMA)

DATE: 1964 Dec 29

DOC#: JMA185

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo Re Asbestos is a Dangerous Dust

8876

RECEIVED

DEC 30 1964

ASBESTOS FIBRE DEPT.
1064

Research & Engineering Center
December 29, 1964

File 259

Mr. A. W. Smith-GHQ

Asbestos as a "Dangerous Past"

Attached is a letter I received recently from Charlie Condit, Executive Secretary of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc., concerning an inquiry about a recent article which appeared in the December 1964 issue of Scientific American. The letter is self-explanatory, and I have also enclosed a copy of the article itself. This is a continuation of the adverse publicity the asbestos industry has received recently with regard to the alleged health hazards posed to the populace at large by all kinds of asbestos-containing products.

I know that you are well aware of this publicity, and I wonder if you have prepared or could prepare a brief statement, which would be suitable for transmittal to Mr. Volkmann and others who are genuinely concerned about this matter, setting forth the pertinent facts and conclusions regarding this subject.

The publication of the attached article in a reputable and widely circulated magazine such as Scientific American tends to cast an aura of authenticity about the conclusions and claims regarding the hazards of asbestos-containing products. Therefore, it seems to me that we and/or the asbestos industry as a whole should lay out a plan of action and take some coordinated, positive steps as soon as possible to put this subject in its proper perspective.

Incidentally, in addition to the attached inquiry on this subject, I received a phone call from Mr. O. A. Battista, Associate Director of Research for Food Machinery and Chemicals Corp. They have been doing some exploratory research work on asbestos, and he had been asked by his management to stop the work in view of the hazards of asbestos. He wanted to know if we had any information which could guide him on this matter.

If our labs can be of any help to you with this problem, don't hesitate to call on us.

F. L. Pundsack

cc: A. C. Smith -Enc.
E. V. Linsell -AFB -Enc.
[illegible]