CC: JWK
WCT
5-1 DS

Calidria ASBESTOS

UNION CARBIDE

THE DISCOVERY COMPANY

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION · MINING & METALS DIVISION · P.O. BOX 379 · NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. 14302 · TEL: 716-278-3376

Jim - If at all possible, please see Mr. Weeks per his letter (rcvd 4/9/73) and this reply. Thanks, John 5/1/73

April 30, 1973

Mr. P. C. Weeks
Union Carbide Australia Ltd.
167-187 Kent Street
Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

Dear Phil:

Mr. Porter's fears of asbestos are not unusual but a man of his stature would be expected to have an open mind in such matters. The following points and the enclosed information should assist you in allaying his fears.

Molten metal will burn you if you touch it, maleic anhydride will poison you if you swallow it, styrene fumes will suffocate you if you breathe too much, silica can cause silicosis if you inhale excess quantities.

Asbestos can cause lung damage if you inhale large quantities for many years. CHRYSOTILE asbestos can cause lung cancer after many years of exposure to high concentrations.

RG-244 is CHRYSOTILE asbestos and can be used safely without endangering the health of workers. Just as Degussa says that Aerosil is not a significant hazard, we say that RG-244 is not a significant hazard.

Since there has been so much published after the "New Yorker" article of 1968 I have chosen not to make specific comments on it. Most of the information is based on insulation workers exposed primarily to crocidolite and amosite asbestos in a period of poor housekeeping practices. This is just not relevant to the use of RG-244.

Enclosed is a packet containing several pieces of information which you can read for background and/or pass on to Hatrick or Monsanto. All of the information can be copied so I am sending only one copy. The paper I presented at the SPE meeting summarizes most of the information and is supplemented by the UK experience.

I am sure that most of the objections you receive are based on newspaper articles. Most of these are not written objectively and tend to sensationalize and

A207

unfairly extrapolate data and studies. The newspaper will not accept any "good" information about asbestos but we are slowly getting favorable coverage in some technical journals, per the attached items. "Plastics Technology", "The Northern Miner", "Journal of Commerce", "Machine Design". Silica is one of the five target health hazards announced by OSHA and the criteria for new standards are being prepared. The current U.S. threshold limit value (TLV) for amorphous silica is 20 million particles per cubic foot (Mppcf) or 80 mg/M^3. If you can see silica dust the level is very near the TLV.

The Hatrick people should have a Reichhold R&D report No. 75 by G. Hicks on the use of RG-244. It was mailed out on March 9 and is very complimentary. This should indicate RCI's acceptance of RG-244 and we hope to get a further mailing from Mr. H. R. Helbig, Vice-President of RCI's International Division. We have monitored RCI's Azusa plant and found dust levels well below the 1976 OSHA Standards.

No material can "conform to OSHA Specifications" as they are not written in this manner or for this purpose. We have made numerous dust counts at various polyester producing plants and find no levels in excess of the OSHA Standards. When dust levels are not exceeded there are no extensive or expensive OSHA requirements.

With regard to laborers, we have found that most workers prefer to handle RG-244 because it is much less dusty and the bags are easier to handle.

The many advantages of RG-244 have caused our sales to increase very rapidly and steadily as noted in the attached chart. I have omitted the scale of sales value, for obvious reasons, so you can show this to your customers to demonstrate the acceptance of RG-244. The top of the scale, for your information, is over one million dollars. We are now planning a major expansion of our RG-244 production facility and have just recently gone to full seven days per week operation. How is your pricing compared to Aerosil? Do you have any problems competing on price or performance?

I have rambled quite a bit on RG-244, do you have any specific questions? Have you contacted Mr. McConchie of the Australian Paper Manufacturers?

Hope this information is valuable to you - please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,

John L. Myers
Marketing Manager

Enclosures: SPE-RETEC
CIBA/GEIGY-UK Health
WHO Report
Safe Use of RG-244
Dr. Wright Test and Dr. McDonald Test
NAS Summary
QAMA
Sampling Equipment List

Enclosures
/ds

A20726