JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION
TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

March 18, 1966

Mr. J. P. Verhalen
President
Sprayed Mineral Fiber Manufacturers Association, Inc.
Suite 2200, 14 Wall Street
New York, N.Y. 10005

Dear Mr. Verhalen:

Dud Colton has asked me if I would answer your letter of March 3 to him.since I am somewhat closer to the situation about which you speak. We are naturally more than aware of the recent Selikoff publicity as well as that of about two years ago. We and the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association have decided that it would be unwise to start a debate in the press about this at the present time. It seems to have created but little public interest and that that was created seems to have died down very rapidly. However, we realize that in the long run we must do something about it. Johns-Manville and the Asbestos Textile Institute have been cooperating since 1963 with the U.S. Public Health Service in a study of the asbestos industry. Also, we, as a member of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association have been co-sponsoring a study with McGill University of the effects of asbestos on workers who mine and process it.

In general, these studies will go in two directions. One will be the collection of statistics about the health of asbestos miners and users as compared with that of the general public. Another will - or at least may - get into the realm of actual experimentation with animals.

Naturally, things of this kind take a long time and it will, therefore, be some time before we have anything that we should bring before the general public. I may have more to tell you after I come back from a meeting of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association the week after next.

I am attaching hereto a copy of questions and answers that were prepared by our people for possible use in answering questions from the press.

Mr. J. P. Verhalen March 18, 1966

I would, of course, be interested in any comments or suggestions that you or your Association as large users of asbestos fibre have on this subject.

Very truly yours,

Roger Hackney
Senior Vice President

cc: Mr. D. T. Colton - New York
Mr. K. V. Lindell - Asbestos, P.Q., Canada

Att.