

PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

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E. A. Spardy

Walter P. Sinclair

Asbestos Health Hazard

May 7, 1969

Dear Ernie:

Supplementing the information given in my Jan 6 memo., the Navy has continued its investigation and taken further action on the possibility of the subject health hazard. Directives have been issued to Navy Yards and other Navy activities to comply with CNM Safety Precaution For Shore Activities NAVSO-P-2455, April 1965 (copy of abstract Mineral Dusts attached), in the handling, prefabrication, installation and rip-out of asbestos thermal insulation materials. Also, a study, recently started, will include conduction of a survey of Navy and a few selected private shipyards as to asbestos insulation, cement, felt and pipe covering they are using and the reason for their use; also what new or other insulation could be used in lieu of asbestos materials and the cost of such insulation. The industry is to be invited to cooperate in the study by furnishing NAVSEC information on the safety precautions exercised in the manufacture of their asbestos insulation products. Also, what other type materials they have to offer for the services, where asbestos insulations are being used and cost of the materials. Visits of NAVSEC and Navy Bureau of Medicine personnel to Navy, and private shipyards and to the industry will be made in connection with the study.

Although the conduction of the study was decided by NAVSEC during the early part of Jan. 1969, the official directive letter of assignment and responsibility for the study by NAVSEC, Philadelphia Division at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard was not forwarded to that activity until April 9, 1969. During the interim, I frequently checked with the personnel of NAVSEC, Code 6101, Washington, D. C., who prepared the draft of the letter, but they were not cognizant of the reason for the delay. It appeared that the proposed study may be dying a slow death, but which did not occur. I endeavored to obtain a copy of the directive letter forwarded to NAVSEC Philadelphia, but was unsuccessful and was informed that copies of a similar letter with about the same context, are being forwarded from NAVSEC Philadelphia, to the industry.

Sincerely,

W P S

Walter P. Sinclair

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cc: R. E. Fuhs ✓

NAVY 31836

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

u-217

Standard No. 5113

PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

Department of The Navy Safety Precautions for Shore Activities.
NAVSO P-2455
April 1965.

2058-Mineral Dusts.

Certain mineral dusts are pneumoconiosis (a pathological lung condition produced by mineral or metallic dust inhalation). The most prevalent and insidious forms are silicosis and asbestosis, caused by prolonged inhalation of dusts (or mists) containing silica and asbestos.

Hazard Materials - Dusts.

1. Silicosis - Silicosis has long been recognized as an occupational disease in such industries as mining and quarrying. The damage done is permanent and progressive with continuous exposure. In its more advanced stage, it is evident by shortness of breath, decreased chest expansion, lessened capacity for work and increased susceptibility to tuberculosis and other lung diseases.

Therefore, any operations which create appreciable quantities of silica (Quartz, principally) such as in sand blasting, should be well ventilated and if necessary; personnel should wear appropriate respiratory protection.

2. Asbestosis - The effects of asbestosis are similar to and just as disabling as those of silicosis. There is evidence, however, that the handling of asbestos products in the Navy are not so well controlled, if the prevalence of cases of asbestosis is an indication. Exposure to asbestos dust is usually encountered in the installation, repair and removal of insulating pipe covering used principally aboard ship. The following precautions should be taken in any dust making operations involving asbestos products:

- (a) Provide permanent general ventilation in areas where dust producing operations are usually performed.
- (b) Install exhaust hoods over saws and other dust making tools
- (c) Require workers to wear dust respirators where dusty operations cannot be adequately ventilated.
- (d) Use industrial vacuum cleaners in lieu of dry sweeping of floors and other surfaces.