

INDEPENDENT OIL WORKERS UNION

AFFILIATED WITH O.C.A.W.

LOCAL 8-831

911 BILLINGSPOUR ROAD
GIBBSTOWN, NEW JERSEY 08027

(609) 423-3615

March 23, 1981

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Arthur B. Hiser, General Manager
Mobil Oil Corporation
Paulsboro, New Jersey 08066

Dear Mr. Hiser:

I have written the local Occupational Safety and Health Administration office asking for a complete inspection of the refinery to determine whether employee exposure to the many pipelines which we covered years ago, with insulation containing asbestos, are now posing a serious health hazard to our workers.

Your response to my OSHA complaint about deteriorating asbestos seemed to satisfy Mr. Alendorf so much that he feels the case can be closed. I must disagree because of the startling facts. We know for a fact that there are miles of pipelines in the refinery which are covered with insulation which contains asbestos. We know that to this day Mobil repudiates any accusations of serious health hazards existing in the refinery.

We know that the examinations of 137 employees performed by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1972 and 1973 revealed that significant asbestos-related lung damage exists among our workers in the refinery.

Approximately three years ago Mobil started informing some employees that their last examination revealed changes in the lungs, specifically lateral pleural wall thickening, which is associated with exposure to asbestos. Though the Union has been unable to obtain information to determine the severity of this problem, Mobil's Medical Department and OSHA does know. The 'Accident and Illness' log (OSHA 200) fails to list lung damage cases.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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Our records reflect cognizant evidence that asbestos has and is still being handled in an unsafe manner and in disregard to proper procedures currently, the demolition of No. 2 TCC and No. 3 Gas Plant units is creating this very hazard. Despite employee complaints to management, contractors continue to knock asbestos to the ground. The dust is carried for an infinite distance. Efforts to force contractor compliance of safety procedures have been frivolous.

Asbestos insulation is not being removed in accordance with applicable health and safety regulations.

After spending many lunch and break periods documenting the locations of some of the exposed asbestos, I submitted a five page report to Mr. Mouton (August 1980). I've asked for periodic updates to check the abatement of the discrepancies reported. It seems to be standard Mobil policy to communicate or provide employees with as little information possible and in the most troublesome manner. I can't seem to obtain a status report on the progress of removing or covering the asbestos insulation.

In an effort to improve communications, I request that we meet, at your convenience, to discuss the problems of asbestos in our workplace. I would also ask that we tour areas of the refinery to satisfy your mind, as Plant Manager, that these problems are very real.

In closing, I wish for nothing more than the day we start solving our own problems from within the plant as I believe it should be.

Respectfully yours,

Kenneth R. Estes

Kenneth R. Estes, Chairman
Health & Safety Committee

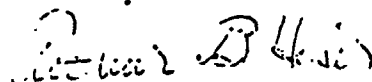
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Recognizing the above case I have a great deal of difficulty in understanding your posture. Your statements relative to the Paulsboro operation are slanderous in nature and are not only unconstructive in terms of our safety program but appear to be intended to harass and detract from the program. We are dedicated to improving the safety performance at the Paulsboro Refinery, and the record speaks for itself.

We will continue to improve, and we will welcome any positive suggestions for improvement.

Very truly yours,


Arthur B. Hiser

/rdm

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