FOSECO, INC.

P.O. BOX 8728 • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135



August 14, 1972

REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION
Republic Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44101

Attention: Mr. John R. Lowey
V.P. Steel Districts
and Steel Division

RE: Asbestos in Hot Topping Systems

Dear Mr. Lowey:

Thank you for the courtesies extended to me at our meeting.

Attached is a copy of my report. If you find that my understandings of what is expected of Foseco, Inc. are incorrect, please call. It is very important that we understand what actions you require to be taken and priorities to be followed.

Sincerely,

FOSECO, INC.

Edward J. Jago
Commercial Development Manager

EJJ/cel
Att.

Cc: E. Gaydos, Purchasing Dept. (2)
W. E. Sebesta, Manager Environmental Control/Air
H. L. Anderson, Chairman Mason Committee
J. Anderson, Safety Dept. Room 1504
E. Kondas, Asst. V.P.

000-00-0000000197

FOSECO, INC.

INTER-COMPANY AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: R. C. PHOENIX

FROM: E. J. Jago

DATE: August 14, 1972

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION IN REFERENCE TO ASBESTOS

FOSECO

AUG 14 1972

AM 7|8|9|10|11|12|1|2|3|4|5|6 PM

Friday, August 11, 1972, I met with:

John R. Lowey, V.P., Steel Districts and Steel Division
Ed Kondas, Asst. V.P.
E. Gaydos, Buyer
Harry L. Anderson, Chairman Mason Committee
John Anderson, Safety Department
W. E. Sebesta, Manager Environmental Control/Air

The following are the basic points made:

Mr. Lowey prefaced the meeting with an outline of the current situation in which OSHA has determined that the asbestos content of the Foseco® systems used at Republic Steel Corporation's Chicago Plant will necessitate monitoring of the air and systematic health examination of the operators. He was particularly concerned as he had reported to him a 25% asbestos level by his laboratory when he had understood that Foseco® had stated that the product only contained 1% asbestos. The question of programs now underway in other Republic Plants and the continuing operation with Foseco® hot tops at Canton were also of concern.

I explained the differences between the sideboard material and the gasketing material at Chicago; indicating that the sides were made from Profax® 31 insulating board which contained less than 4% asbestos (actual content is currently 3.9%) and the rings were Proflex® insulating board which contains 9% to 15% depending upon the application (actual material employed currently at Chicago is the 15% product). Obviously the misunderstanding on the 1% asbestos levels has arisen because we have made the statement that after use the residue in the Profax boards will be less than 1%. I also explained that the laboratory was probably reporting total fiber not asbestos.

Mr. Sebesta explained to us that the major problem will probably be around the stripping areas as he believed the bonded board will not create sufficient dust during setting to be significant. I agreed that this was probably the case, but suggested that Foseco® should in fact mark the pallets of ring material with the cautionary statement. I indicated that at present we would not consider that the boards would require marking.

Monitoring programs will be started immediately in all Republic Plants and the levels of asbestos in the air determined. The problem of determining asbestos fiber in the presence of other fiber and the question of whether asbestos was hazardous after heating to 2000°F was discussed. It was agreed that these areas needed investigating.

It was agreed that Foseco® will start immediately to introduce low asbestos products. Initial target dates are 1) 1st October 1972 for boards containing less than 1% asbestos and for rings with asbestos levels reduced to below 9%. 2) 1st January 1973 for rings with less than 1% asbestos. As soon as possible and no later then 3) July 1st, 1973 for rings and boards completely free from asbestos.

In addition Republic requested that the Profax® currently employed at Warren and Cleveland be modified as quickly as possible to bring them in line with the sideboards used in other Republic Plants. (Currently the formula is a hybrid necessitated by the need to bend boards). I indicated that this would get immediate attention.

Mr. Kondas asked if the topping compound contained asbestos and I explained that no Ferrux® topping compound contained asbestos. In response to a question relative to topping compounds in general I stated that to the best of my knowledge the only topping system which did contain asbestos was "Ferropad" supplied by Ferro Engineering.

The question of silica dust arose and after some discussion it was agreed that although this could not be ignored the immediate difficulties were with asbestos. I indicated that Foseco® was well aware of the potential difficulties that might arise in the future and that we were in fact working on non-siliceous systems but that we would prefer not to conduct field trials on these products until more laboratory data was available.

Mr. Lowery emphasized that the quality and yield was of prime importance in addition to the health hazard problems. The meeting requested that caution be exhibited in testing products so that production and quality problems did not arise. I explained that under no circumstance would we ever take a test product into a mill without clearing it with the local production and metallurgical departments. In addition, I stated that such tests would also be done only after notification of the Central Purchasing Department of our intention.

Mr. Gaydos requested that we report on our understanding of the requirements to be met and what actions we were going to take. I agreed to this request.

Edward J. Jago

EJJ/cel

ACTIONS FOR FOSECO

GF/HDW 1) Arrange tests of modified Profax boards at Republic-Warren and Cleveland.

HDW/RH 2) Arrange tests with Profax containing less than 1% asbestos at Chicago and Canton.

RRD/RH
JDS/PAP 3) Manufacture and test at Chicago, rings with less than 9% asbestos.

RRD/JDS 4) Continue development work on rings and test rings with less than 1% by January 1973.

RRD/DB 5) Continue development and provide asbestos free Profax and Proflex by July 1st, 1973 or sooner.

RRD/DB 6) Develop silica free products for introduction as appropriate in 1973.

AFE/EJJ 7) Establish testing techniques which will enable differentiation of the various types of asbestos from other fibers.

WCS/EJJ 8) Establish pricing policy on the asbestos free and silica free products.

Cc: WCS HDW
PAP RFH
GF RRD
HDS DB
JDS AFE
RBO Mellodey (FIL)