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J. Marsh - Trumbull

INTER ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATION

Raybestos Manhattan

Advanced Research Laboratory

DIVISION and LOCATION

TO: J. T. Trainor - Trumbull

DATE: 6/17/74

— McGill

SUBJECT: Size Distribution of Novatex Fibers
(J. Marsh's memo to you of 6/6/74)

I discussed the above memo with John last week in order to give him my opinion concerning the work being done at Edinburgh and Dr. Gibbs research proposal.

What I wanted to point out to John was the fact that at the present time the relationship between the inhalation of fiber and disease is not understood. This is demonstrated by the fact that Dr. Holmes in his letter to Mr. Hills used phrases such as: "...the effect of fibers must have been...", "...is not likely to be very hazardous...", "...must surely be...", and "...one would expect...". The work at Edinburg will help to increase our understanding of the problem, but we cannot expect it to state that Fortex fibers are safe. If research is continued in this area, we might expect sufficient information in five to ten years, but one study is not enough. This means that Dr. Gibbs study of Novatex fiber size distribution would, at best, give us a feeling concerning the problems with Novatex material.

The previous study at McGill has shown that filled Novatex releases fewer fibrils than treated conventional. Filled wet processed material is in all liklihood the safest asbestos textile possible with present technology both from production and use standpoint. An awful lot of research will pass under the bridge before this statement is modified.

R/M is faced with a number of diverse asbestos dust problems, all of which demand significant capital expenditures at a time when capital is hard to come by. I feel that we have a responsibility to use this capital and the best present technology towards making our products safe both for our workers and our customers.

Considering these factors, I think the proposed study at McGill is ill timed. If, however, Dr. Curtiss at NIOSH wished to study fiber distributions, I think it would be to our advantage to cooperate.

I also told John that in my opinion, we must notify our customers in the safety garment industry of the McGill results at U.S. Steel and Irco. As he suggested, Dr. Gibbs report should be published as soon as possible and I would prefer to have R/M mentioned as a source of support.

We also discussed the fact that R/M at the present time does not make an asbestos fabric which is acceptable for use in safety garments. This would put us in an embarrassing position when the McGill results are published. The obvious answer as J. Orzechowski and I have discussed, is to get a filled Novatex on the market ASAP.

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EXHIBIT

If you have any disagreements, let me know.

John J. Magenheimer

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cc: J. Marsh
J. Orzechowski