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Mr. J. E. Thomas, Toledo

June 21, 1967

R. F. Thomson, Granville

Mr. D. W. Ladd, New York
Mr. R. J. McEvoy, Granville
Mr. L. L. Sadosky, New York
Central Files

LAYLO - REPLACEMENT OF ASBESTOS

I called D. W. Ladd, per your request, concerning the Wall Street Journal article on "High Rate of Cancer Noted Among Workers In Asbestos Industry".

D. W. Ladd does not want us to accelerate or transfer our effort to the 'replacement of asbestos' program. He wants us to place our emphasis for the next several months on stress corrosion. Then, in the fall after vacations are out of the way and the program of upgrading strength of the stress corrosion product is completed (estimated completion date - September), we can at that time increase our emphasis on the replacement of asbestos program.

D. W. Ladd pointed out we have a ten million dollar Layle operation. He wants 'us', as a team, to be in the position to tell management what fibers we can use to reinforce Layle if and when the day arrives when the whole industry is 'forced' to remove asbestos from their products. He doesn't want OCF to wait until "D" day to start looking for substitute fibers.

I told Del we are conducting a 'low gear' program in finding substitutes for asbestos. Most of our effort is being directed toward stress corrosion. We hope by the end of the year to be able to recommend to management one or more fibers, which could be used to reinforce Layle with a high probability of success if a major R & D effort is directed toward optimizing and debugging the process of adding such fibers to Layle batch.

In 1967 we are only screening candidate fibers. We do not plan to carry our investigation to the point of completing plant trials and test marketing. Del thought this was a fair enough objective.

It was also pointed out by Mr. Ladd that if and when "D" day for the removal of asbestos arrives, we won't be alone. The whole industry would be in the same boat with us. The industry may be forced, at that point, to accept a weaker, softer product as a price they must pay for the removal of asbestos.

R. F. Thomson

RFT/ris

Attachment

PROPRIETARY

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