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MEMPHIS
FEB 15 1968

Memo from

Herbert Morton Ball

The attached is a progress report on our common environmental health problem in the asbestos-cement pipe area.

As agreed at our meeting on January 3, this information is to be kept strictly on a top executive level. It is definitely not to be distributed to the field.

It is with this understanding that the attachments are sent to you.

HMB

2/7/68

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General Headquarters
February 5, 1968

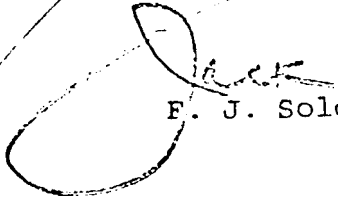
H. M. Ball

Herb:

Attached is a progress report on our environmental health project in the asbestos-cement area.

In line with our agreement at the January 3rd meeting of a/c pipe manufacturers, you may want to pass this report on to them.

If there are questions before so doing, please let me know.


F. J. Solon, Jr.

cc-Dr. George W. Wright, Cleveland, Ohio
M. Harris
J. Baker
W. P. Raines

PROGRESS REPORT
Environmental Health Project
Asbestos-Cement Pipe

At the conclusion of the January 3rd meeting of asbestos-cement pipe manufacturers, several of us volunteered for specific assignments. This is the first report of progress on those assignments.

Assignment: H. M. Ball to visit the General Counsel of the Cast Iron Pipe Research Association to discuss the desirability of eliminating reference to alleged health hazards in the promotion of various types of water pipe.

PROGRESS

Mr. Ball and Jay Baker carried out this assignment on January 18, meeting with both the General Counsel and the Executive Secretary of the Association at the Counsel's Washington, D.C. office. Mr. Ball has reported the successful results of that meeting to the other a/c pipe manufacturers. J-M Pipe Division people report no new "incidents" since that time.

Assignment: F. J. Solon, Jr. to visit Dr. Murray Brown of the U.S. Public Health Service to sound him out on what PHS plans to do about questions regarding the safety of a/c pipe and whether he would be receptive to the idea of broadening any PHS study to include cast iron, plastic and other types of pipe used to carry potable water.

PROGRESS

At a subsequent meeting with Dr. George W. Wright, Medical Consultant to the President of Johns-Manville, it was deemed advisable for Dr. Wright, who knows Dr. Brown well, to make the contact. He did so by phone the week of January 21. Dr. Brown told Dr. Wright he was aware of the problem, that Senator Gore of Tennessee had shown interest in it and that he (Dr. Brown) had an appointment with

Dr. Stewart, the Surgeon General, that week and that the subject of a/c pipe could very well come up. He promised to report after his visit with Dr. Stewart.

He did not report that week so Dr. Wright called him January 31 to learn:

1. The subject did not come up in Dr. Brown's meeting with the Surgeon General.
2. If there is to be a test program on a/c pipe, it will probably be given to Dr. Brown's group - and that he has already made up his mind to include cast iron, plastic and other types of pipe in the program.
3. Dr. Brown has written to Dr. I. J. Selikoff asking for a copy of Dr. Selikoff's letter to Dr. Bistowish, Director of Health of Nashville and Davidson County. He is awaiting receipt of that letter before writing to Senator Gore, as the Senator had requested. He

has had no pressure from Senator Gore in the meantime and believes the political pressure is off.

In light of the above, it would not seem to be necessary for a delegation of a/c pipe manufacturers to visit Dr. Brown or anyone else in the PHS at this time regarding the inclusion of cast iron pipe, etc., in any test program. However, we will keep in touch with the situation through Dr. Wright so that should consideration of a test program become imminent, we will be on top of it and can then mutually decide strategy.

Assignment: Johns-Manville will prepare a position "background" paper on the a/c pipe environmental health question.

PROGRESS

The first rough draft has been completed. To the comments of Dr. Wright which form a firm base for this paper, we wanted to add those of Dr. Selikoff. Ivan Sabourin, Counsel to the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association, obtained from Dr. Selikoff a copy of the Selikoff letter to Dr. Bistowish along with his (Dr. Selikoff's) permission to give it to F. J. Solon, Jr. This gave us direct knowledge of the letter instead of the indirect knowledge we had had previously.

Now, in order to get "our own" letter of comment, Dr. Fred Pundsack of Johns-Manville who, with a group including

Mr. Sabourin, has been having exploratory scientific meetings with the Selikoff Mount Sinai group for several months, wrote to Dr. Selikoff on January 30th, requesting his comments on health aspects of a/c pipe. We understand that Dr. Selikoff will answer this request - so that in the next two weeks, we should have our own letter from which we can excerpt for our position "background" paper. If this works out as scheduled we should have a final position paper ready by March 1st.

Assignment: F.J. Solon, Jr. to talk with Dr. Wright re possible research programs on the a/c pipe health question.

PROGRESS

Dr. Wright contacted Dr. Robert T. deTreville of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, Pittsburgh, where much asbestos fiber research has been and is being carried on. Dr. deTreville's letter to Dr. Wright with an attached report from Dr. Paul Gross, shows that in tests already underway, involving rat feeding, no abnormalities have yet been found in the gastro intestinal tracts of these animals in the 21 months since the test program began. This is encouraging and we hope this preliminary report will be borne out on the final report when all animals have been processed. We have no date as yet for this final report.

Since these tests involve chrysotile fiber only,
Dr. Wright is now considering the advisability of a
similar test program involving crocidilite fiber. This
will be further discussed at a meeting on February 20.

Further on the Nashville "situation":

Attached are copies of two clippings from the Nashville
Banner, January 17 and the Nashville Tennessean, January 19
showing that Dr. Bistowish is still openly opposing a/c pipe
despite the point of view expressed in Dr. Selikoff's
letter to him. At a meeting this past week with Moke Harris
and Jay Baker of the J-M Pipe Division, we agreed on
strategy aimed at getting the "full story" into the
Nashville papers(i.e., Dr. Selikoff's letter to Dr. Bistowish
which takes a much more temperate view of the hazard than
Dr. Bistowish has thus far verbalized to the press and
others.)

WATER CONTAMINATION STUDIES

At the January 3rd meeting we covered briefly the water
test program we were getting underway at the Manville
Research Center. Attached is a confirming memo from Ed Fenner,
Director of our Environmental Control Department regarding
that program.

Generally, I would say good progress is being made.

We will continue to report as that progress warrants.

F. J. Solon, Jr.

JANUARY 17, 1968

Health Board Advises Against Asbestos Pipe

By DICK BATTLE

The Metropolitan Board of Health recommended today asbestos cement pipe not be used in the Metropolitan water system "until more evidence can be developed" concerning any health hazard from asbestos fibers.

Dr. Joseph Bistowish, director of health, said the board "has instructed me to recommend to Mr. Lawrence (director of water and sewerage services Robert L. Lawrence) against the use of asbestos pipe at this time until we can get more evidence. We want more information about it before we can make a firm decision."

Councilman James LaPenna has been urging that bidding be opened to allow purchase of asbestos-cement pipe.

Rejected Plea

Lawrence, who is responsible for specifications on materials, has rejected LaPenna's suggestions on the basis cast iron pipe is superior to the asbestos pipe in tensile strength and suitability for use here.

Several medical experts have suggested the possibility that the ingestion of asbestos fibers from the use of asbestos pipe might be a cause of intestinal cancer.

Dr. Bistowish said he also

has asked the Nashville Academy of Medicine, through its Public Health Committee headed by Dr. Alvin Keller, to investigate the use of asbestos pipe.

The board in other actions this morning voted to add measles vaccination to the immunizations required for admission to schools, nursery schools and day care centers.

Delays Clinic

The board delayed opening of a public health clinic in the Edgehill Urban renewal project pending "discussion of several problems . . . including the level of indigency and how

we can assure follow up care . . ." The director said he would probably discuss the matter with Vanderbilt and General Hospital officials.

Dr. Bistowish said a study of influenza cases involving employees at a local industrial plant indicates a new strain of flu virus, "A-2 Taiwan" was the cause of much of the recent flu epidemic.

He said clinical evidence might develop another strain but "we know this new (A-2 Taiwan) strain has been prevalent here based on the small number of cases checked at our industrial plant."

JANUARY 19, 1968

NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN 1/19/68

Bistowish Opposes Asbestos Pipe Use

By FRANK RITTER

Dr. Joseph Bistowish, Metro health director, recommended to a council committee last night that asbestos cement pipe not be used in the water system here because of "possible health hazards."

There is no evidence, Bistowish explained, to prove that the ingestion of asbestos fibers is not related to cancer. And until further tests are conducted to show that no hazard exists, the health director added, "I would not like asbestos pipe carrying water to my house."

However, a sales representative for a major asbestos pipe manufacturer replied that cities which have used asbestos pipe for decades show no greater incidence of cancer than cities that don't use the pipe.

BISTOWISH MADE his recommendation to the council's public works committee, headed by Councilman Richard Taylor. The public works committee, along with the council's purchasing committee, has been studying the relative merits of asbestos and cast iron pipe.

Nashville has used cast iron pipe exclusively, although it is more expensive than asbestos pipe, for at least 40 years in the water system here. Robert L. Lawrence Jr., Metro waterworks director, has defended the practice on grounds cast iron pipe is better.

Bistowish, in raising the question relating to a possible health hazard inherent in asbestos pipe, said it is a proven fact that inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause cancer.

"We do know that you can get cancer by inhaling asbestos fibers," he added, "but we aren't certain about the ingestion of fibers -- there have been no studies to prove it doesn't cause cancer."

"It is my understanding that such studies are now underway, and perhaps they will shed some light on the question. But to my mind, there are too many unanswered questions at this time about asbestos pipe."

K. RAYMOND August, assistant district sales manager for Johns-Manville Sales Corp., a manufacturer of asbestos pipe, said asbestos pipe has been used for 25 to 30 years in some cities without adverse consequences.

"There is nothing to prove," he added, "that there are no agents in cast iron pipe which would cause cancer."

August then raised the question of whether the "tar which is used for the inside lining of cast iron pipe is carcinogenic (cancer-producing)?"

Taylor called last night's meeting of the public works committee primarily to permit representatives for Clow Corp., manufacturer of cast iron pipe, to explain why they feel their product is better than asbestos pipe.

LENNART A. Fahlander, general sales manager for the corporation, spoke for an hour about what he termed the advantages of using cast iron pipe, using colored slides to illustrate his talk. He spent another half hour answering questions.

Taylor sharply limited discussion of questions raised by August, competitor of Clow Corp., and would not allow the asbestos pipe representative to

give a full presentation of his views.

W. J. Hayes Jr., direct sales representative for Johns-Manville, said he thinks most of the adverse comments about asbestos pipe could have been refuted if Taylor had permitted others the freedom he gave Clow representatives in speaking out.

"We were not given an opportunity at this meeting," Hayes added, "to make a presentation or offer a rebuttal to the questions raised."

"IF WE HAD been permitted to speak out, we would have shown asbestos pipe has been used for many decades in all parts of the nation, and used with great success."

"We would have discussed, if we had been given a chance to reply, U.S. Department of Commerce figures which show that the use of asbestos pipe throughout the country has increased from 21.7% of the business in 1945 to 31% in 1955. During the same period, the use of cast iron pipe has dropped from 78.3% to 64.2%."

"This indicates that the use of asbestos pipe in water systems throughout the nation is accepted."

The public works committee made no recommendation last night on whether Metro should purchase asbestos pipe instead of cast iron pipe.

Under present policies of the waterworks department, the asbestos pipe representatives are not permitted to bid on contracts for supplying pipe to the local government.

January 3, 1968

George W. Wright, M. D.
Head, Medical Research
Department
St. Luke's Hospital
11311 Shaker Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44104

Dear George:

As requested, I am sending, herewith, a copy of
Paul's preliminary report on the feeding of chrysotile
to rats.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Robert T. P. deTreville, M.D.

deT:sld
Enclosure
cc-Dr. P. Gross

DATE: January 3, 1968
TO: Dr. Robert T. P. deTreville
FROM: Dr. Paul Gross
SUBJECT: Asbestos Feeding Study--Preliminary Report

As part of our investigation of the bio-effects of asbestos, we prepared an intimate mixture of finely divided ball-milled chrysotile asbestos so that the chrysotile constituted 5 percent of the food by weight. This was fed to ten young growing rats for 21 months. A comparable control group of rats of the same age and weight was fed the same diet but without chrysotile.

The weight curves of the two groups of animals were not significantly different from one another.

At autopsy, 21 months after the beginning of the feeding experiment, no significant abnormality was found.

Sections were prepared from various portions of the gastro-intestinal tract as well as from the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and spleen. Although all animals have not yet been processed, no abnormality has been found in the sections so far examined.

P.G.

P.G.-ejd

CONFIDENTIAL

W. P. Raines - GHQ

Water Contamination Studies

The water contamination studies planned by the Research Center are in three groups. In the first two the samples collected will be checked as follows:

- (1) Filtration tests, and microscopic examination of the particulate matter to detect asbestos, if present.
- (2) Water hardness.
- (3) Water pH.
- (4) Iron content of the water.

The Group I program involves tests of water from Bound Brook, N. J., "an all cast-iron pipe town" and Manville, N. J., "an all asbestos-cement pipe town". The sampling and testing program will begin immediately after the first of the year. Samples will be taken weekly from each town. The program will continue until definitive results are obtained.

The Group II test program involves water samples from the following cities:

Globe, Arizona
San Diego, California
Long Beach, California
Providence, Rhode Island.
Wichita, Kansas
Memphis (Capleville District), Tennessee.

Two samples will be taken from each city. The first sample will be the source water before it has passed through asbestos-cement pipe and the second will be water after it has passed through the pipe. Samples from Globe, San Diego, and Long Beach have been received and the others are due soon.

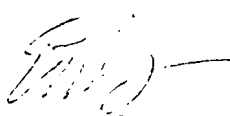
CONFIDENTIAL

W. P. Raines - GHQ

-2-

January 2, 1968

The Group III tests will be made on a new pipe test loop stand under construction at the Research and Engineering Center. This test stand will permit controlled studies of the erosion or disintegration of asbestos-cement pipe by water of different pH and hardness values. The system utilizes a 30-ft test run of asbestos-cement pipe and is equipped with fairly sophisticated control equipment. The water run through the test will be filtered and examined for asbestos fiber content. The water, which will not be recirculated, will be continuously and automatically adjusted to the proper pH and hardness values. This system is scheduled to be in operation in April 1968. The first long-term test is planned with very severe water conditions insofar as asbestos-cement pipe is concerned - low pH and low hardness.


E. M. Fenner

EMF/ems

cc: F. L. Pundsack
J. H. Swensen
File
C



CERTAIN-TEED PRODUCTS CORPORATION

Ambler 45		Ardmore Legal
ATTENTION OF:	<i>Reichel</i> Mr. J. R. Ree	DATE: January 19, 1968
ANSWERING YOURS:		DICTATED BY: C. E. DeLong / kh
SUBJECT: HEALTH HAZARDS OF ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPE		

cc: Mr. Malcolm Meyer - Ardmore

Mr. Herbert Ball of Johns-Manville called on Friday, January 19, 1968, to report certain developments in the controversy about the health hazards of asbestos cement pipe.

Following Mr. Ball's meeting with the General Counsel for the Cast Iron Research Institute, the Cast Iron people had a meeting and they have now decided not to use publicity about suspected health hazards of asbestos as a sales medium for promoting their products.

Doctor Wright through Murray Brown of the U. S. Public Health Service has submitted the asbestos problem to the Surgeon General, and his views about the need for studying the problem will be received shortly.

It has been learned that Senator Gore has entered into the controversy at Nashville concerning the use of asbestos cement pipe and has been promoting the interest of the Public Health Service in this matter. There is still a great deal of controversy in Nashville as to whether specifications should be open to asbestos cement pipe. There have been certain meetings or hearings held, in the course of one of which the possible health hazards of cold tar products used by the Cast Iron people were mentioned.

C. E. DeLong

RECEIVED
GENERAL SALES A/C PIPE

JAN 23 1968

FORM 117

8-62

ACTION MEMO	Subject
	☐ See attached
☐ For Your APPROVAL	TO J. L. Reichel
☐ For Your COMMENT	FROM C. E. DeLong
☐ Advise COMPLETION Date	DATE
☐ CONTACT Me About This	RETURN BY
☐ Per ☐ Our ☐ Your CONVERSATION	FORWARD TO
☐ For DISCUSSION	
☐ Prepare ESTIMATE	
☐ For Your FILE	
☐ For FOLLOW-UP Record	
☐ Please HANDLE	
☐ For Your INFORMATION	
☐ INVESTIGATE And Report	
☐ READ ☐ Destroy ☐ Return	
☐ Per Your REQUEST	
☐ Advise STATUS	
☐ Copies returned per your request.	

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NASHVILLE BANNER - 1/17/47

Health Board Advises Against Asbestos Pipe

By DICK BATTLE has asked the Nashville Board we can assure follow up
The Metropolitan Board of Health recommended today Public Health Committee head he would probably discuss the
asbestos cement pipe not be used by Dr. Alvin Keller, to his matter with Vanderbilt and
in the Metropolitan water system investigate the use of asbestos General Hospital officials.
term "until more evidence can be developed" concerning any health hazard from asbestos pipe.
The board in other actions this morning voted to add measles vaccination to the im-
munizations required for ad- ployees at a local industrial
mission to schools, nursery plant indicates a new strain of
schools and day care centers. the virus, 'A-2 Taiwan' was
cent flu epidemic.

Dr. Joseph Bistowish, director of Health, said the board "has instructed me to recommend to Mr. Lawrence (director of water and sewerage services Robert L. Lawrence) against the use of asbestos pipe at this time until we can get more evidence. We want more information about it before we can make a final decision."

Delays Clinic He said clinical evidence might develop another strain but "we know this new (A-2) epidemic Urban renewal project strain has been prevalent pending "discussion of several here based on the small number of cases checked at the level of indigency and how one industrial plant."

Councilman James LaPenna has been urging that bidding be opened to allow purchase of asbestos-cement pipe.

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