

March 31, 1970

Alexander Smith

K. W. Sulser

Wet Processing - Asbestos

In Jerry Mitchell's report of 3/26/70, covering the subject of impact of New Federal Regulations requiring lower dust counts, he points out that should the panic button be pushed we could very rapidly convert our various Works operations, at a reasonable cost, to wet processing operations.

However, the report points out that even though wet processing is feasible and offers some advantages in dust control in spinning, twisting and weaving, it has many disadvantages. The most important being that it results in a cloth or tape with completely different characteristics which will require customer acceptance which we have not had up to this time.

In view of the forthcoming environmental controls, of which asbestos certainly will become on the priority list, and the fact that asbestos still remains the best all around insulation and heat resistant material at the lowest cost, I wonder if the present consumers might now be more receptive to our material prepared by wet processing.

I think time is upon us to prepare samples by the wet processing and take it to our customers for a market evaluation as a replacement material when controls on dust are strengthened.

When could you proceed with such a market study? Who would do it? How long would it take? How broad and in what depth would you approach such an undertaking?

Please let me have your program some time in April, if you consider such a study feasible and appropriate at this time.

KWS:ms

K. W. Sulser

cc: E. C. Bratt
R. W. Davison
J. L. Mitchell

