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NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND DRY DOCK COMPANY

FILE NO. _____

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

April 18, 1966

MEMORANDUM For Mr. W. K. Baxter

Reference: Your memorandum "Chemical Analysis for Thermobestos Pipe Covering Manufactured by John Manville", dated April 14, 1966.

In response to your query contained in reference memorandum concerning the undesirable properties of thermobestos from a medical viewpoint, please be advised as follows:

From the analysis presented, thermobestos is a hydrated ferrous magnesium silicate comparable to Amosite.

It has been recognized for many years that Amosite may cause a disabling and fatal fibrosis of the lungs, a condition termed "asbestosis".

It has also been established, since 1955, that patients with asbestosis have a high incidence of bronchial carcinoma.

Since 1962, and particularly since 1964, there has been an accumulation of evidence to suggest that certain pleural and peritoneal tumors (mesothelioma) may be associated with exposure to asbestos.

In view of the fact that recently three shipyard employees have been shown to have had mesothelioma of the pleura (two of them have died and the third was operated upon three months ago) and that in each instance asbestos bodies were microscopically demonstrable within the tumor, a more extensive memorandum is in process of preparation in support of a recommendation that a more benign, non-hazardous material be substituted for asbestos wherever possible.

D. J. Cracovaner, M.D.
Medical Director

DJC/mp-3
cc: Mr. H. Nordstrom
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