

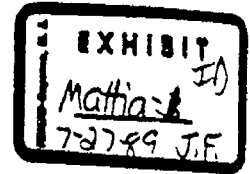
FILE NAME: Foster Wheeler (FW)

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Hygiene

May 20, 1968



From: R. C. Johnson, Research Division

To: MR. W. NEWITTS, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

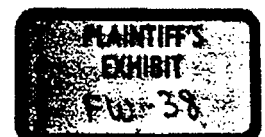
Copy: Messrs. W. Stevens, L. O'Connor, J. Winkin, H. Pratt, K. Shearer,
E. Galvanek, L. Conklin, C. Hansen, K. Walker,
Research Division (Livingston, Dansville)

Subject: INSULATION INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

The writer attended a seminar at the New York Academy of Sciences on May 14, 1968 at which the executive representatives of the insulation industry, labor unions, government and academic institutions, and contractor organizations met to discuss the problems of health hazards in the insulation industry. A list of these personnel is attached to this letter.

A brief summary of this seminar is given below:

1. The interaction of trade unions, crusading medical reporters, mounting clinical evidence, and public health pressures has culminated in the conclusion that insulation dusts are a contributing factor to current increases in deaths due to: mesothelioma, lung carcinoma, pulmonary fibrosis, and calcification of the pleural plaques.
2. There is an established medical relationship between the following environmental factors which affect the prognosis of these diseases: (1) concentration and size of insulation dust particles, (2) time of exposure, (3) additive effects such as smoking, (4) types of particles, (5) utilization of proper breathing devices, and (6) age.
3. One of the more impressive statistics was that the pathological manifestations of a disease caused by asbestos inhalation are not apparent until at least 20 years of exposure to asbestos dust. After this period the documented incidence of related disease is quite impressive. A suggestion by one industry leader that no asbestos worker be hired before he is 45 years of age was tabled without discussion!
4. It seemed unanimous that continuous exposure by an asbestos worker to asbestos dust for 8 hours per day and 5 days per week would be an acceptable working risk provided that the "Threshold Limit Value" (TLV) was not allowed to exceed 5 million particles per cubic foot. Therefore, unless current medical research sheds new light on the mystery, the industry-wide approach to the problem is to minimize dust levels in all phases of the trade: mining, production, application, utilization, and even repair or removal of insulation products.



5. An Insulation Industry Research Council was formed to initiate an Industrial Hygiene Program with the primary objective of reducing dust levels in industry. A million dollar budget for this program is attached. The J-M Corporation started the monetary ball rolling with a \$100,000.00 peace offering. The Council is composed of Messrs. Henry, Brodie, Jobe, Hutchinson, Barnhardt, Levine, and Salikoff.

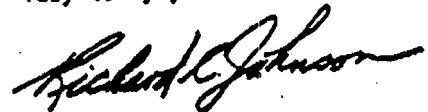
6. The significance of this program is assessed below:

- (1) This is a cooperative venture between 18,000 asbestos workers and the insulation industry; it affords a powerful counter-irritant to the type of publicity experienced at Turkey Point.
- (2) One of the cases cited at the seminar was the establishment of maximum dust levels at our Wyandotte job where asbestos was being sprayed. The Michigan Department of Health tested and approved these maximum levels; all the fears of the asbestos worker were put to rest and no labor disputes were experienced.
- (3) If one notes the well-rounded representation of labor, government, and industry on the attached lists, the channels of communication have been improved for the discussion of analogous problems.
- (4) The funding is established on the basis of industrial output of fiber; the consumer was not officially invited to contribute funds to this program.

It is recommended that we cooperate with this effort by specifying maximum dust levels (TLV) in our specifications for fibrous insulation installation. Proper utilization of respirators and exhaust systems should continue to be emphasized in our shops where fibers are sprayed or insulation products are installed.

We emphasize that the exact mechanisms of these industrial diseases are not fully understood; however, at least a movement has started to evaluate the relationship between the causative agent and the disease - and not just the job title and the disease.

Very truly yours,



Richard C. Johnson
Research Division

RCJ:gh