EXHIBIT
AIA-24
06155877

C.P.D. ENG.

AIA ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION
NORTH AMERICA
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square 4, Suite 509
Arlington, Virginia 22202 • (703) 979-1150

NEWS & NOTES

30 April 1980

NIOSH-OSHA Asbestos Work Group Submits Report - Adoption of New Standard Recommended By NIOSH

The report on workplace exposure to asbestos, prepared by a joint NIOSH-OSHA Work Group, was released on Apr. 17 at a news conference sponsored by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Concurrently with release of report, remarks were made by Dr. Anthony Robbins, Director of NIOSH, and Dr. Eula Bingham, Assistant Secretary of Labor (OSHA).

The Work Group commenced its work last fall with the charge to "review the scientific information concerning asbestos-related disease and assess the adequacy of the current OSHA occupational health standard of 2 f/cc." Members of Work Group included: Richard A. Lemen, NIOSH, Work Group Chairman; Dr. David H. Groth, NIOSH; John M. Dement, NIOSH; Dr. Joseph K. Wagoner, NIOSH; Dr. J. William Lloyd, OSHA; Dr. Han K. Kang, OSHA; and Robert L. Jennings, Esq., OSHA.

Principal findings and recommendations of the Work Group included:

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- All commercial and several non-commercial forms of asbestos cause disease. (Work Group found no basis for regulating one type of fiber and not another.)
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- The report contains recommendations for medical testing procedures including chest X-rays, pulmonary function tests, observation of respiratory and other clinical symptoms. The Group also recommends that sputum cytology be evaluated as a surveillance technique.

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- Asbestos workers showing respiratory problems should be afforded the opportunity to transfer to jobs where there is no asbestos exposure. They should suffer no cut in pay or benefits to do so. The Group suggests that this program should be similar to the one now enforced by OSHA for lead workers.

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Dr. Robbins stated that NIOSH endorsed the findings and recommendations of Work Group, and was formally recommending that OSHA issue "a safer standard for workers exposed to asbestos and that it eliminate from the workplace all exposure from new non-essential uses of asbestos." In NIOSH's letter of Apr. 17 to OSHA, Dr. Robbins recommended that the permissible level for exposure to asbestos dust be at lowest level "accurately measurable by optical microscopy" (0.1 f/cc).

According to Dr. Robbins, NIOSH, in order "to further understand the problem of removing all asbestos from the work environment," will undertake following additional studies:

- Examine the life cycle of asbestos, from mining to fabrication, use, and disposal. This work will identify all points where workers may be exposed to asbestos and simplify enforcement of the new standard. (NIOSH will coordinate with EPA.)

- Produce an inventory of all asbestos products likely to reach the work environment. This inventory, along with the life cycle study, will help quantify the scope of efforts required to eliminate asbestos exposure.

- Establish a continuing review of the development of asbestos substitutes. This should protect workers by encouraging rapid elimination of asbestos uses.

- Review laboratory facilities available for accurately analyzing asbestos since any new standard will require increased analytical capability.

In her remarks, Dr. Bingham said "asbestos is now perhaps the foremost symbol of this country's concern about toxic substances in the environment and in the workplace." She added that a team has been designated within OSHA to begin working on a proposed revision to the present asbestos standard and that it would be developed pursuant to OSHA's cancer policy announced in Jan. In regard to the Work Group's and NIOSH's recommended 0.1 f/cc standard, Dr. Bingham said, "I can't tell you yet what permissible level will be proposed or whether we will issue an emergency temporary standard or pursue the proposed permanent standard route." In response to a question about relationship between smoking and asbestos exposure, Dr. Bingham stated that this issue will be addressed in future hearings on a new standard. She added that it is likely that there will be an "enormous" public record developed during rulemaking process.

On Apr. 25, AIA/NA President T. A. Dougherty issued an Association statement emphasizing that the NIOSH-OSHA Work Group report fails to justify the recommended twenty-fold reduction in the permissible exposure level, i.e. 2 f/cc to 0.1 f/cc. Attention was invited to report's extensive use of epidemiologic evidence from worker populations exposed to asbestos at levels many times greater than those experienced in industry today. Dougherty urged NIOSH and OSHA "to make responsible, scientific assessments of the health risks and health benefits to be gained before pursuing the type of drastic exposure reductions now being proposed."

Dougherty stressed that NIOSH's proposal was not based on any scientific demonstration of the health-related value of such a reduction, but rather only on NIOSH's assertion that .1 f/cc represents the lowest level accurately measurable by optical microscopy. He stated, "Such assertions should not be substituted for sound scientific assessment in determining permissible exposure levels." Dougherty noted further that the industry is aware of no widely applicable technology that would consistently provide accurate measurement of airborne asbestos in the workplace at such low exposure levels.

Dougherty urged NIOSH and OSHA "to avoid resorting to extreme regulatory measures without first examining the consequences of their actions -- both for workers and society as a whole." He emphasized that "We support reasonable regulations which protect workers from significant risks without needlessly impairing society's ability to deal with other hazards," and added that AIA/NA stands ready to assist OSHA and NIOSH, as well as other government agencies, in achieving that goal."

It is understood that the asbestos standards team within OSHA is working on a revision to the present asbestos standard. Several unanswered questions remain such as schedule for issuance of a proposal (possibly ANPRM which would be in consonance with generic cancer policy) as well as approach for addressing construction industry. Indications are that any proposal will likely not appear before July 1.

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CPSC will continue to look at a wider range of asbestos-containing consumer products as indicated by agency's ANPRM issued Oct. 17, 1979 (N&N Nov., Feb.). Commission inquiry will take the form of a general order to manufacturer's (including importers) to obtain information on the use of asbestos in various consumer products as well as marketing information and results of any fiber emission tests on such products. A draft general order which had been circulated for interagency review has been amended and is currently awaiting approval by the Commission and subsequent review by the General Accounting Office.

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In addition to commenting on various provisions of draft, AIA/NA called attention to its Recommended Standard for Occupational Asbestos Exposure in Construction and Other Non-fixed Work Operations. This position paper, representing continuing commitment of AIA/NA to develop a workable program for protecting health of workers in construction industry, was presented Feb. 7, 1980, together with Association of Asbestos Cement Pipe Producers, to OSHA Subgroup on Health Standards, Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (N&N Feb.). Alberta draft does not recognize unique nature of construction industry in regard to occupational health regulation and inapplicability of traditional fixed-worksite regulatory requirements to such industry.

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GRACE

Construction Products Division

06151032

February 21, 1979

TO: M. B. Cohan
H. C. Duecker
D. M. Kirven
W. S. Zorkers

REF: E. S. Wood's Memo of 2/20/79 re "South African Claims of Asbestos-Free Vermiculite"

cc: R. M. Vining
H. A. Eschenbach
W. R. Hanlon
J. R. Becker
B. A. Blessington
B. R. Williams
J. W. Wolter

Please correct your records to show that the meeting to discuss above subject will be held on Monday, February 26th, at 8:30 AM, in the First Floor Conference Room (Financial) and not on the 27th as originally stated.

Thank you.

Kay Rooney

/cgr

file

CONFIDENTIAL LEGAL MEMORANDUM
(ATTORNEY'S WORK PRODUCT)

00152033

February 20, 1979

TO: M. DiBenedictis
H. C. Duecker
O. M. Favorito
W. S. Zorkers

FROM: M. B. Cohan

Re: African Vermiculite

After having spoken at length with Dr. Duecker and reviewed analyses of African vermiculite by Arthur D. Little and McCrone Associates, it appears that the claim that African vermiculite is "asbestos free" is untenable. While the level of asbestos fiber is low, there is no question that chrysotile or other asbestos fiber can be found in African vermiculite. The question now arises - should this information be communicated outside the company and if so - to whom and how.

The delicacy of this matter and the danger of creating the appearance of impropriety is such that careful consideration must be given to any action plan. I would like to sit down with all of you and anyone else you think should be involved and discuss the impact of the "asbestos free" claim and whether the available cures might not be worse than the illness.

M B Cohan

M. B. Cohan

MBC/al