105

copies sent 1/31/72

cc: W. Streit
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F. L. FURDEACK

DHQ
New York, N.Y.
January 25th, 1972

G. E. Parker - Denver

Labeling of Asbestos and Asbestos
Containing Products - Export Sales
Your Letter 1-13-72

Please refer to your subject letter to Mr. Jobe.

After consulting Mr. Hutcheson, we believe it is necessary to consider this matter from the point of view of the efforts we are making to sell asbestos fibre in international markets, and for this reason the following observations are appropriate.

1. A great deal of regulations have been issued in Britain regarding the handling of asbestos fibre. In fact, Britain has been ahead of the U.S. in this area. Despite this fact, no labeling of any kind is done in Britain, and all asbestos companies in Britain ask the Canadian industry not to accept such a measure on asbestos shipments to the United Kingdom.

2. We know of no other foreign country where such labeling or the type of litigation referred to in your memo is pending.

3. The seller of our asbestos is Canadian Johns-Manville and we question, therefore, if it is subject to U.S. regulations pertaining to the labeling of products.

4. In view of the vehement resistance to any type of labeling that has been expressed by all of our major customers any decision by J-M to label its fibre for export would only add to our competitive disadvantage unless other Canadian producers agree to do the same.

5. Instead of reevaluating the exposure inherent in continuing the present practices, I recommend that this matter be brought up at the next QAMA meeting and that we solicit again the opinion of our largest customers abroad on the latest opinion and evaluation of J-M's exposure in our relationships with them.

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G. E. Parker - Denver

Under the circumstances we have no alternative but to recommend that labeling of asbestos bags for sales to export markets be postponed indefinitely, at least until such time as our principal customers accept or request it.

D. Poutiatine

cc:
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