Research & Engineering Center
March 21, 1966

A. C. Smith

cc: M. B. Jamin Dust control General

TRIP TO TURNER BROS.
ASBESTOS CO., LTD.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. OBSERVATIONS

1. Health Committees

To my knowledge, there are no health committees in JM with the stature of the health committee in Turner Bros. Health committees with higher echelon participation could:

a. Initiate new types of programs.
b. Lend greater credence to Johns-Manville's desire to solve health problems.
c. Insure a continuing check on the higest levels of the company of the efficacy of health control measures.

2. Research Council

A cooperative effort could well be established with other companies in the asbestos field to finance and pursue problems of mutual interest. Subjects of such a program could be:

a. Study of dust counting methods.
b. Relation of dust count levels to physiological damage.
c. Relation of asbestos exposure to lung cancer.

3. Role of Doctor

It is my impression that the doctor in JM facilities plays a rather passive role. The historic role of doctors is a far more positive and active one. With encouragement the doctor could probably serve a role of relating specific identification of plant problems to physiological damage that he observes and as a participant or initiator in the solution of these problems.

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4. Dust Counting

A stronger technical effort in dust counting can produce the following advantages:

a. Insure technical competence of the technicians now making dust counts.

b. Study correlations between dust count levels and physiological damage.

c. Study new techniques to see if there are sufficient advantages to replace the laborious and inaccurate Greenburg-Smith impinger techniques.

d. Study the use of electronic instruments like the Sinclair-Phoenix photometer and the Royco instrument to see if sufficiently accurate day-to-day monitoring can be established to reduce laborious methods used now.

e. Interpret results and focus attention on problem areas.

5. Reducing Dust in Textiles

a. Good results have been obtained by the use of textile oils in asbestos fibre in the reduction of dust.

b. Water can be more widely used in wetting fibres on twisting frames and for the warp threads of looms.

c. Fly off cards re-used in the asbestos blends probably increases plant air-borne dust.

6. Dust Systems

From a technical standpoint discussions with the people at Turner Bros. especially Dr. Knox, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Bamblin convinced me that Johns-Manville has the medical and engineering know-how to solve its problems to an equal or greater extent than Turner Bors. has been able to do. It is a challenge to management to discover ways to use the technical know-how to solve company health problems.

7. Handling Textile Plant Fibre

Asbestos fibre in Turner Bros. is treated as a dangerous material that must be handled in sealed systems and containers. The same is not completely true in JM plants.

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8. Rovings Production Rates

The Turner Bros. cards produce at a rate that I believe is almost twice as high as ours. The secret may be in the introduction of cotton lap on the cards. The uniform introduction of cotton may increase roving strength and reduce breakage allowing higher rate production.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A high level health committee be established in Johns-Manville with A. C. Smith or some other senior officer as chairman. Other members should be Dr. Smith, several division managers, and research and engineering.

2. Health committees be established in each plant composed of the plant manager, the safety engineer, the operating superintendents, the plant engineer, and the plant doctor.

3. A research council be established in the asbestos industry where all the asbestos manufacturers can finance and staff the search for solutions to common health problems.

4. The doctor in JM facilities be encouraged to ferret out health hazards in plants and press for their elimination.

5. A research effort be started in the field of health to study and evaluate existing techniques and introduce new ones especially the use of quick-reading electronic instruments.

6. The use of oil and water to suppress dust in textile operations be studied.

7. The re-use of dust and fly in the preparation of textile blends be discontinued especially if a reduction in dust counts and no increased costs can be shown.

8. Asbestos fibres be treated as a harmful material in all our plants and be handled in closed systems and containers.

9. Work be immediately instituted to study why Turner Bros. cards produce at a faster rate than ours. Especially study the introduction of cotton lap at the cards.

J. Goldfield

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