POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

J-M ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

MAY 21, 1971

F. L. PUNDSACK

1. F. L. Pundsack reported on the meeting held May 12 in Washington, D. C. with Dr. John Middleton and other members of the Air Pollution Control Office of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (a written report by W. P. Raines on the meeting was distributed to Policy Committee members on May 13). Those attending the meeting on behalf of the AIA/NA were Pundsack, Raines, E. M. Fenner, Dr. Eugene Stefl of Raybestos-Manhattan, and Dr. George W. Wright.

   The most important result of the meeting was that contacts were established with those individuals in the EPA who will be responsible for developing the Federal asbestos air pollution control standards and regulations.

   E. M. Fenner is expected to be named to serve on an EPA committee to review the proposed standards. Members of this review committee will receive a draft of the EPA document on or about July 15. A meeting will be held sometime in August to discuss committee member comments, and the revised document will be published in the Federal Register on September 27. According to law, a public hearing on the regulations must be held within 30 days of publication in the Federal Register, placing Federal hearings sometime in October.

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Pundsack has sent Dr. John Finklea of the EPA (who attended the meeting) material on brake lining tests conducted by J-M, and plans to deliver our asbestos-cement water pipe data in person.

2. Because of the great importance of the October Federal EPA hearings, Pundsack recommended that J-M begin planning for them now. Whether J-M decides to support the regulations or not will, of course, depend on the final document; however, in either case, we will want to have as many qualified medical and technical people testify as possible in support of our position. Pundsack suggested that the Scientific Relations Sub-Committee meet to put together a list of possible witnesses. Each member of the Policy Committee was asked to submit a list of witnesses for consideration by the Scientific Relations Sub-Committee. It was recommended that J-M take into consideration in its selection of witnesses the type of presentation that Dr. Selikoff is likely to make at the hearing, and who would be best qualified to rebut him.

K. V. Lindell commented that we should not hesitate to talk about talc as a source of asbestos in the ambient air.

Dr. Wright said that he will get together with Ed Fenner to discuss what additional data (dust counts etc.) we should have for presentation at the hearings.

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Among the names suggested as possible witnesses were Corbett MacDonald, Lewis Cralley, the Canadian Minister of Trade, Marcus Key, Paul Kotin, someone from the British Government, Marvin Kushner and Bill Smith.

Each of these individuals, and any others selected by the Scientific Relations Sub-Committee, would have to be contacted personally as to their willingness to appear and the type of testimony they would give.

The proposed EPA emission standards will be distributed to members of the Policy Committee as soon as they are received (presumably in mid-July).

3. Pundsack reported briefly on the recent spray hearing in Albany. A status report on the spray situation across the country was distributed to the Policy Committee prior to the meeting. Raines reported that on May 20 the Chicago City Council Committee on Environmental Health had voted to ban sprayed asbestos in that city.

4. Pundsack reported on an article by Bill Nicholson scheduled to appear in the next issue of the IIHRP Progress Reports. In the article Nicholson misused dust count data collected by Bill Reitze, and arrived at the unsound conclusion that a 5 fiber TLV was far too high for safe occupational exposure

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and that a level of 3 fibers was responsible for all the disease found by Dr. Selikoff among the insulation workers. Pundsack talked to Nicholson and Dr. Selikoff about the article and they agreed to make some minor changes in the text; however the basic idea of the article remained intact.

Pundsack commented that, in his opinion, J-M cannot afford to let its name be associated with this type of irresponsible action on the part of Dr. Selikoff and the IIHRP, and that the J-M members on the IIHRP Board and Dr. Wright should consider submitting their resignations. J. B. Jobe agreed.

Pundsack also recommended that the inorganic micro-particles study being funded at Mount Sinai by J-M should not be continued beyond its present expiration date of October 31.

F. J. Solon to draft letters of resignation for Jobe, Pundsack and Dr. Wright. It was agreed that the letters should be short and concise, and that no reasons be given for the resignations.

A. B. MARCHANT

1. A. B. Marchant commented that a long interview with Dr. Selikoff on the joint union-management environmental control committee at Manville will appear shortly in the MANVILLE NEWS. According to Marchant, it appears that the union, now that the strike is over, is no longer as enthusiastic about the joint committee as it was earlier.

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J. B. JOBE

1. J. B. Jobe read a letter he had received from Dr. Selikoff asking for our cooperation in doing an epidemiological study at Manville as part of the joint program. It would appear that Dr. Selikoff would like the health records of our employees.

It was agreed that permission to look at these records should not be given to Dr. Selikoff. A. B. Marchant to draft a reply to Dr. Selikoff stating our position that the union-management agreement was for control and engineering purposes only, and not for health research, and that HEW is covering this area in its study of the industry.

Dr. Davison commented that under the new Health and Safety Act, Dr. Selikoff (through the union) will be able to get his hands on the Manville health records without our permission. Whether or not this would include access to x-rays is questionable.

A. C. SMITH

1. A. C. Smith brought up the question of whether J-M should continue to try to eliminate crocidolite in its products where possible. Dr. Wright commented on what is known about the health effects of crocidolite as compared to the other varieties, and recommended that J-M try to replace crocidolite wherever possible. He feels that the EPA may impose stricter regulations on crocidolite than on other varieties as a gesture to the various environmental groups.

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W. L. VAN DERBEEK

1. W. L. VanDerbeek suggested that J-M hold a seminar for people in middle and lower management to acquaint them with the facts about asbestos-health. The senior officers and division managers have, for the most part, been kept informed of developments in this area, but there has been a lack of communication at the lower management levels.

   Various methods of holding such a seminar or series of seminars were discussed. F. J. Solon will coordinate.

2. Dr. William Smith of Fairleigh-Dickinson is presently engaged in research of considerable importance to the asbestos-industry, but he is running out of funds to continue his work. He has applied to the IOEH for a grant and has also written to Sid Speil.

   Dr. Wright said that he feels it imperative that Dr. Smith's work be continued; it promises to provide useful information on the relationship between EM sized fibers and mesothelioma.

   It was agreed that J-M should provide Dr. Smith with some funds to help keep his work going at least until the various grants he has applied for come through.

   F. L. Pundsack and Dr. Wright will see Dr. Smith to investi his needs. The J-M Fund will then be asked to make a gra Fairleigh-Dickinson to support Dr. Smith's work.

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W. P. RAINES

1. W. P. Raines commented briefly on recent developments in the "asbestos in women's coats" controversy. The Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Food and Drug Administration have both contacted J-M about this situation. The FTC is considering an embargo on further importation of the coat material, and the Food and Drug Administration is considering a re-call of those coats already sold, both for health reasons.

2. Raines also reported on preliminary contacts made with the editor of OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH REPORTER concerning an article which appeared in their first issue stating that the purpose of the IIHRP was to control fibrous emissions from air conditioning ducts. It was agreed that the publication should be given the factual story of the IIHRP.

F. . SOLON, JR.

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