Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: *See Below

Date: June 28, 1982

From: S. Wyatt McCallie (2-16) Ext. 4953

Copies: Chrono/File

Subject: A/C PIPE - BLAIRSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

On June 23, Dr. Wister Meigs, head of the Connecticut Cancer Epidemiology Unit, called me regarding the Crump analysis of the Kanarak study that I had provided to Dr. Meigs and Dr. Ian Higgins earlier this year for review and information.

Dr. Meigs had been contacted by Helen Pentrack, a vocal member of the Concerned Citizens Group in Blairsville, Pennsylvania, that has been attempting to get a court to order that A/C Pipe not be used there. Mrs. Pentrack was seeking help from Dr. Meigs in refuting the arguments being made by what she called the "lying manufacturers." Dr. Meigs told Mrs. Pentrack that it had not been his experience that the manufacturers were lying and he spent about one hour talking with her. He informed her that the A/C Pipe question was not one that deserved the type of time and effort it was getting, that all piping materials were capable of putting trace quantities of contaminants into drinking water and that there was no evidence available to show that any of the other piping systems were particularly safer than A/C, and that the focus of her group should be on seeing that the water company treats the water so that it is not aggressive and does not attack the A/C Pipe. He noted that if the water was treated to be nonaggressive, Blairsville would have the ideal situation of no contamination of the water by the A/C Pipe and no contamination of the water from the bitumen coatings used on ductile iron pipes. Dr. Meigs did not feel that Mrs. Pentrack was particularly open to any facts.

During the course of the hour discussion, the Kanarak study came up, and Meigs told Mrs. Pentrack that his own serious concerns about confounding in that study had been strongly supported by the Crump analysis. Mrs. Pentrack asked for a copy of the Crump study and Dr. Meigs called me to see if it was proper for him to give her a study.

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JUN 29 1982

J-M 83

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I checked with John Welch, and he had me talk to Ned Rahn since there is litigation pending in Blairsville. Ned feels there will be some tactical advantage to postponing the time at which the opposition receives the Crump analysis though ultimately the A/C Pipe Industry would intend to use the Crump analysis in Blairsville and elsewhere. Thus, we decided that we would ask Dr. Meigs not to release the Crump analysis to Mrs. Pentrack at the present time.

I have asked Dr. Meigs to respond to Mrs. Pentrack that he has learned that litigation is currently pending in Blairsville regarding A/C Pipe, and that he does not feel at liberty to provide copies of documents to any of the parties of the litigation until it is resolved.

SNM/vfm

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J-M 83