Manville General Plant
January 22, 1957

Minutes of Meeting on Dust Conditions in "A" Building
January 21, 1957

Present: Messrs. M. J. O'Brien, W. D. Torrance, M. F. Naylor, V. J. Liotta and C. Sheckler.

The Labor Union's letter of 1/15/57 cited various complaints on dust conditions in "A" Building. These complaints and the remedies were discussed at this meeting.

1. "L" Frames and Pot Twisters

Two development jobs are in process on the "L" frames. One involves a scavenger system to prevent broken ends from throwing dust and the other is a stop motion device to accomplish the same thing. Experimental work on trial spindles will be in operation by April 1, 1957 and installation, if successful, will be completed by the end of the year. We are investigating also the possibility of applying moisture to the material during processing on the frames to further reduce dust.

The pot twisters are to be removed from the department by June and new wet twisters, which will apply moisture to keep down dust, will be installed.

An appropriation to humidify the spinning and twisting areas has been approved and is scheduled for completion in May 1957.

2. Picker House - Fibre Blending Area

a. Dust hoods are to be installed on fibre pre-cleaners. Estimated date - March 1957.

b. An appropriation has been approved to install mechanical conveyors and blending and weighing pans to eliminate manual handling of fibre between pre-cleaners and pre-carder lines. Estimated date - September 1957.

c. Cotton opening and cleaning equipment is being installed in this area and a cotton lapper has been ordered. This equipment will process all cotton into lap form and these laps will be fed into the pre-carder. Estimated date - August 1957.

d. Vortex equipment was purchased on an engineering project and experiments will be carried out to determine practicability of spraying the fibre blend with a light oil or other liquid to hold down dust during the subsequent operations.

e. An experimental lap picker is now on order for blended fibres (estimated delivery - July 1957). This will be installed at the end of the pre-carder line and fibres will be mechanically handled into the unit and come out in rolled lap form. If this is successful, additional units will be installed to handle all production. This is estimated for completion in July 1958. This equipment will, in all normal production use, eliminate the need for stock trucks and the dust caused by truck handling.

f. GPED has designed additional dust collection facilities for this fibre blending area and Industrial Engineering is preparing an appropriation for this project. If approved, installation will take place in November 1957. This installation will assist in keeping dust from being blown outside.

3. Cardroom

It is the opinion of the Division Management that dust conditions in the cardroom are satisfactorily under control. Moreover, all corrective work on fibre preparation will have a beneficial effect on the cardroom activities. Mr. Torrance will, however, initiate an assignment on GPED for a resampling of dust concentrations in the area and an examination of the present facilities.

4. Humidification

The Division Management believes that humidifiers have reduced dust and are providing improvements in dust control. GPED will be requested to resample these areas to substantiate this belief.

5. General Conditions

a. In addition to the above projects, the building has recently purchased two vacuum cleaners to help in dust control. A Plantman vacuum floor sweeper for use throughout the building to keep aisles and work areas dust free and a Hoffman vacuum for use in general top cleaning on lights, beams, etc. and also under machines, are expected to improve working conditions.

b. We believe that all of the above projects will have beneficial results not only on conditions within the building but upon the outside dust conditions mentioned.

The last complete survey of the 236 dust count stations in the Textile Department was taken in June 1954. This survey showed that only 12 stations had dust counts in excess of the allowable maximums. Since that date we have concentrated our efforts on these trouble spots and have taken additional counts only at these points.

When the above projects are completed and the equipment is in service, a further request for dust counts will be placed on GPED. Then, if any further engineering is required, it will be done.

V. J. Liotta

CC: Those Present