August 20, 1935

Mr. A. J. R. Curtis,
Portland Cement Association,
33 West Grand Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Curtis:

I have been requested to draft a set of Rules and Regulations for use in our factories in respect to respirators. The object is to instruct the employees, either through the posting of notices or by orders from Department Foremen, regarding respirators and the manner of using them. At the present time, respirators are provided at all factory locations but there is no uniform procedure for bringing to the attention of the employees the fact that respirators are available for their protection and that their use is required on dusty operations.

The very interesting article contributed by you to one of the issues of "ROCK PRODUCTS", together with some conversations I had with you in Pittsburgh, have led me to believe that you could probably assist me considerably in solving my problem. My thought is that perhaps your Association may have issued some suggestions to its members designed to meet the analogous problem which exists in the cement industry. If this be the case, and you feel free to do so, I would greatly appreciate your letting me have copies of any such data.

If this data should not be available at your office you might possibly be able to afford me an introduction to the proper person in some organization which has effectively solved the problem. You are, of course, aware, that the question has some delicate aspects in that it becomes necessary to warn the employees that dust is hazardous and at the same time not alarm them or lead them to believe that every time they contract a cold the cause of it is the dust present in the air where they work.

I am also interested to know if you have any information as to the methods used by employers in enforcing the use of respirators where a hazard is known to exist. Have you heard of anyone establishing a rule that failure to use respirators at certain localities will result in instant dismissal; and, if such a

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rule is in effect at any location, do they enforce it? The suggestion on my part of establishing any such drastic rule has created some consternation on the part of our Factory Department who think that the enforcement of such rule would in many cases cause us to lose the services of very valuable men and seriously impede production.

Please understand that I do not want this request of mine to put you to any trouble or inconvenience. If you do not have information readily available which might assist me in the solution of this problem, please ignore the request but if, on the other hand, you can without inconveniencing yourself, be of some assistance to me, I assure you it will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Vandiver Brown
Attorney

VB:T

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