Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: P[illegible]tin, M.D.

Date: February 11, 1977

From: W. A. Cooper

Copies: E. M. Fenner
N. T. Amarino - 1-02

Subject: HISTORY OF EMPLOYEE EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON ASBESTOS

Prior to 1973, employee education about asbestos and health concerns was erratic. It was left mainly to supervisory personnel at plant levels to review the hazards and suggest proper working practices at their regular plant safety meetings. Supervisory personnel were supplied with factual data on health concerns by the Employee Relations and later the Environmental Affairs Department. Basically, this information consisted of a number of "position papers" produced on approximately the dates listed below.

It should be noted that the fledgling AIA was attempting some educational programs prior to 1973, but again, these were aimed mainly at supervisory personnel.

March 1973	Report of the Advisory Committee on Asbestos Cancers to the Director of the IARC (Lyon Report)
April 1973	Asbestos and Health
June 1973	Asbestos: A Family of Minerals
September 1973	Questions and Answers on Asbestos and Health
[illegible]ber 1973	Asbestos-Cement Water Pipe and Health
November 1973	Asbestos - No Risk to the General Public

(Public Information kits for the media were produced in March 1973)

The first booklet for employees, telling them about the hazards and what the Company was doing to protect them, was produced in October 1973 and distributed to some 8,000 employees in asbestos operations in the U.S. and Canada. Other material produced directly for the education of employees about asbestos and health were:

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September 1973	Recommended Safety Practices for Handling Asbestos Fiber (Poster)
October 1973	Recommended Safety Practices for Handling Asbestos Fiber (Pamphlet)
October 1973	What Every Employee Should Know About Asbestos...And What You Should Tell Others

(In 1/74, 3,000 copies of this booklet were produced by J-M for the AIA to distribute to its members; in 7/74, a special order of these booklets was produced for the Southern Asbestos Company.)

From approximately September of 1973 to mid-summer 1974, a series of educational seminars was held at about a dozen cities to educate customers and others about asbestos and health concerns. A special condensation of those seminars was produced in April 1974 and distributed to all who attended the seminars and all those attending future ones. In toto, approximately 800 representatives of various companies and organizations attended the seminars.

In 1975, a new educational effort commenced, resulting in the production of the following material for employees on the approximate dates listed below:

January 1975	"What You Should Know About Asbestos and Health" - a new employee booklet distributed to all employees in asbestos-using operations.
May 1975	AIA Posters - a series focusing on the dangers of smoking, not using respirators, etc.
September 1975	"Working With Asbestos" - a slide program given to all asbestos-using plants for showing to employees.
December 1975	"Working With Asbestos" - a film dealing with health hazards for employee viewing.
January 1976	"The Asbestos Report"
February 1976	"Occupational Health Guide - Asbestos" - designed mainly for supervisory personnel.

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Pa[illegible]in, M.D.
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November 1976 — "Before You Begin" - a new booklet designed for beginning workers in asbestos operations.

Aside from a plethora of supplemental material available to employees and others on request, this was the extent of our educational program aimed directly at employees.

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