505

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES · TOLEDO 1, OHIO

December 14, 1948

Mr. J. F. McMahon, Managing Director
Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America, Inc.
4400 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

Dear Mac:

A subsidiary of Owens-Illinois, the American Structural Products Company, manufactures a material known as Kaylo, which is a light-weight, white insulating tile or slab. the raw materials of which are silica flour, diatomaceous earth, hydrated lime and asbestos. In the manufacture of Kaylo the silica flour and diatomaceous earth combine chemically with the lime to form a silicate.

Preliminary animal inhalation experiments have shown that Kaylo dust has no tendency to produce silicosis or the diffuse fibrosis which has been reported as resulting from the breathing of diatomaceous earth. Indications have appeared, however, that Kaylo dust will cause asbestosis in animals.

These two findings are about what might be predicted: since there is a negligible amount of uncombined silica flour and diatomaceous earth in Kaylo, and since the asbestos fibers are embedded in the finished Kaylo more or less unchanged.

Kaylo is a new product which will have, we hope, wide commercial distribution eventually. At least, it is a very important product to us now. We want to know everything we can about its health aspects, both as they might affect people in our own plants, and as they might be of interest to customers and applicators, and other people who handle it in the field.

We are, therefore, turning to you for help and suggestions. We believe some work should be done along these lines and wonder whether the Foundation could undertake it as a special project to be supported by American Structural Products Company:

1. Additional inhalation experiments to check the findings that Kaylo dust will not cause silicosis but may cause asbestosis.

CRMC-Motley1000-Subj-001893

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11998/1

2. Periodic air samples in our own plants.

3. Air samples in the plants of customers who are using Kaylo to find out in general what dust concentrations are set up by the normal handling of the material; and, in particular, to find out whether much of the asbestos fiber is dispersed in the air. (It may be that the fibers are cemented in the finished Kaylo and are not dislodged except through sawing and grinding of the Kaylo.)

We should appreciate having your reactions to a program like this and would welcome your suggestions. This is all in the preliminary stage and if a study of this sort should eventually get underway, all the persons interested would want to get together to talk over the details.

With personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bill

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIVISION

W.G.Hazard:M

CRMC-Motley1000-Subj-001894

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11998/2