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EPA -- Activity in the area of hazardous waste disposal appears to be on the increase. It is reported that some member companies have received of late lengthy questionnaires on this subject from EPA.

Final amendments to the asbestos emission standard as proposed on March 2 are expected to be published in the near future. These amendments would extend prohibition of spraying provisions of national standard to all materials sprayed on buildings, structures, etc., containing more than 1% asbestos by weight.

CPSC -- By notice in the Federal Register on October 4, CPSC extended from September 27, 1977 to November 28, 1977, the period in which the Commission must either publish a consumer product safety rule declaring that consumer patching compounds and artificial emberizing materials containing respirable free-form asbestos are banned hazardous products or withdraw the proposed rule. As a related item, the Commission has contracted with the consulting firm, A. T. Kearney, Inc., to develop a list of asbestos-containing consumer products. It may be expected that Kearney will be contacting member companies in this regard. The scheduled completion date of this work is January 15, 1978.

MESA -- Legislation which would transfer MESA from the Interior to Labor Department was approved September 26 by House-Senate conference committee. Ultimate enactment of the conference version bill is expected.

Asbestos Regulation Task Force -- The status of the EEH study remains essentially unchanged. A recent office visit by Mr. William T. Malloy, Executive Vice President, EEH and Mr. Kenneth Dow, project director for the EEH study, reconfirmed that the total cost for completion of this work as currently defined is $170,000. To date EEH has been paid $166,397.43.

Legal-Medical Research Program -- Dr. Enterline's research of medical literature on asbestos and lung cancer and mesothelioma and the review of his work by Dr. Ian Higgins of University of Michigan has been completed. The study has been forwarded to Special Counsel for analysis of usage in medical state of the art legal defense mechanism. The Executive Director was authorized to pay Dr. Higgins $2,000 for his work as billed.

Mr. Dougherty said that Mr. Gabrielson had agreed to continue as chairman of this committee.

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