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INTER ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATION

Raybestos Manhattan

Advanced Research Laboratory
DIVISION and LOCATION

TO: J. Marsh - Trumbull

DATE: 7/15/74

SUBJECT: McGill Study of Asbestos Safety Garments
Ref.: M.Q. Scowcroft's Memo of 6/28/74.

I have read Milt Scowcroft's memo concerning the McGill Study and I discussed it further with him over the phone on Thursday.

Milt has brought out some important points which should help in determining the best approach towards Dr. Gibb's report. I would like to make some comments on this memo.

Our contract with Dr. Gibbs for the McGill Study in question stated as the objective, "To determine the exposure of a man to asbestos fiber during the normal use of asbestos safety garments in industry." The determination of the specific source of the i.e., hood, coat or mitts is an obvious extension of this study which was not pursued for a variety of reasons. There was also a lack of proper identification of the fabrics involved which was my responsibility. However, the objective of the report was to determine the dust levels under normal use and this was done in a scientific manner.

I agree with Milt's premise that most of the dust arises from the hood. Some of it probably does come from the coat and mitts as shown by Bamber and Butterworth (Ann. Occup. Hyg., 13, 77-80, 1970) but I agree that we should work under the assumption that the hood is the problem.

I think Dr. Gibbs article can be written in such a way as to imply that surface treatment of fabrics reduces the dust levels. Combining this with the Tribestos treatment and John Hawkins' present work on the hood fabric, I think we can obtain a possible salses advantage from the article.

Dr. Gibbs' report will, in all liklihood, be published. The only thing we can affect is the time of publication and possibly the tone. Until the article is published, Milt's program of informing his customers will assist in making this information public. I would suggest that he extend the caution to the use of any uncoated asbestos fabric for safety garments.

Once John Hawkins has engineered the textile fabric for the hoods, we should be prepared to set up a test to verify the improvements.

John J. Magenheimer

/dt

cc: M. Scowcroft - Charleston
J. Trainor - Trumbull

JJM: dc

EXHIBIT P-654

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