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UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

MINING AND METALS DIVISION • P. O. BOX K, KING CITY, CALIFORNIA 93930

To (Name) Mr. E. S. Prochnik
Division Public Relations Dept.
Location 4th Floor, New York

Date June 15, 1973

Originating Dept.

Answering letter date

Subject

RECEIVED
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WM. C. THUREER

Copy to R. G. Beverly
W. N. Johnson
W. J. Kovack
J. S. Whitaker

The attached copy of an article on the Asbestos hazard appeared in the April-May, 1973, California Farmer Consumer Reporter, issued bi-monthly at Santa Clara, California. A copy of the issue was sent to me by Grace McDonald, Editor and Publisher.

Very truly yours,

Floyd H. Larrison, Jr.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
UC-1383

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CONFRONTING THE ASBESTOS HAZARD

Union Carbide's Mining & Metals Division plant in King City, California expects to ship 20% more of its "Calidria" asbestos pellets in 1973 than in 1971, according to Floyd H. Larrison Jr., company manager.

The pellets are used in making paper products, vinyl asbestos floor coverings, oil well drilling mud, coatings and adhesives, gypsum compounds and thixitropes in resins. Used throughout the United States, in Europe, Japan, Australia and other world markets, the product is shipped in bags or in hopper cars which carry from 90 to 100 tons each.

Shipments to Japan go through the Port of San Francisco. The National Marketing Division of Union Carbide is in Niagara Falls, N.Y., J. L. Meyers is Manager. Corporate headquarters are in the 52-story Union Carbide building at 270 Park Ave., New York City.

The company has 3,000 employees in the 13-state Far West Region at more than 50 plants, mines and offices. Including its affiliates, in excess of 100,000 people are employed at some 400 locations worldwide. Hardly more than 50 workers are employed at the King City operation.

The story of manufacture of asbestos pellets dates from the late 1950's when a Union Carbide geologist discovered "mountain leather" asbestos at the mountain top of California's parched Coastal Range east of King City some 20 miles from Coalinga in Fresno County.

This is one of three open mines where the ore is on the surface, can be easily scooped up during the summer months and run through screens to separate the rock. (The other two mines, Atlas and Coalinga Asbestos, are on the S.E. tip of the range in San Benito County.) The ore is 60 per cent asbestos, equalled, according to the King City Union Carbide brochure, "nowhere else on earth, except perhaps in Yugoslavia . . ."

The screened rock, loaded on trucks, snakes its way down the mountain, a 55 mile haul, to be dumped at the King City mill site and be processed through the year. The plant started operation in 1963, after some years of study.

Exposure to inhalation of asbestos, cancer-producing, fibers, has been minimized in the plant by use of the "wet process" screening method. Rocks and heavy materials drop to the bottom of ore slurry while lighter asbestos floats to the surface. The slurry is then pumped through pipes and filtered water is removed and sheets of "asbestos" cake are ready for final processing and marketing.



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Asbestos Fibers 1-21-73

Additional equipment to be installed during 1973 is expected to further reduce asbestos fiber content in work areas at the King City plant to levels conforming to the June 7, 1972 standards adopted by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). In the process of developing these standards data compiled by the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), Rockville, Md., and its national occupational disease consultants, was used. Among such authorities are Dr. Irving Selikoff, Mt. Sinai, N.Y. School of Medicine, and Dr. W. Clark Cooper, lecturer, Division of Occupational Health Sciences, U.C. Berkeley.

Dr. Cooper and U.C. Professor Emeritus Irving Tabershaw, have now formed their own occupational disease consultant service at 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley, Ca 94704.

Standards to control dust particles by installing equipment within industrial plants are under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9, which includes all of California. Regional Administrator is Paul De Falco, 100 California St., San Francisco, CA 94111.

Standards for control of asbestos are now under consideration. They will specify the minimum amount of control equipment to prevent such cancer-producing fibers from being emitted into the atmosphere. Control equipment is scheduled to be installed by Union Carbide at King City during 1973.

NOTE: Standards for protection of workers at asbestos mines are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, even where processing is also done at the mine-sites. (See story on pg. 5 of the Dec. '72-Jan. '73 REPORTER for lack of effective protection by the Bureau in Southern California Talc Plants.)

BLM Grazing Fees Up 20%

Agricultural Dateline, the publication of the Washington State Grange, reports in its February issue that the Bureau of Land Management is increasing grazing fees from 66¢ to 78¢ per animal unit month, an increase of almost 20%. They also report that while the nation's beef production will increase one-third in the decade 1970-1980, meat imports for 1973 will be up 10% over 1972 and that the President will suspend import limitations due to the current beef shortage.

WHO WILL PROTECT THE WORKINGMAN?

The controversy over whether enforcement of the 1970 Federal Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA) should be left in the hands of the U.S. Department of Labor or transferred to California jurisdiction is currently being decided by the State Legislature.

The bill under discussion is AB 150, "The Industrial Safety Act of 1973," the result of two years of study by the Assembly Select Committee on Industrial Safety, of which Assemblyman Jack Fenton was chairman. Other members were Jim Keysor and Newton Russell.

The bill was triggered by the Sylmar Tunnel disaster near Los Angeles which occurred on June 24th, 1971, killing 17 men. Amended from last year's version, it passed the Assembly Labor Relations Committee by a 7 to 1 vote May 9th. Revenue and Taxation made further amendments at hearings on May 14th. Next step is Ways and Means, chaired by Willie Brown Jr., San Francisco.

AB 150 is backed by every segment of the organized labor movement which contends that California occupational safety and health standards are far superior to the national average and therefore State jurisdiction and enforcement would be by personnel aware of the type of accidents and health hazards predominant in this major industrial state.

Enactment of AB 150 at least begins to cope with dangers to life and limb from occupational diseases, not the least of which are cancer-producing asbestos dust and chemicals.

The weakness of both Federal and proposed State enforcement machinery lies in the recognized fact that there is a serious lack of adequately trained occupational safety and health specialists. This is due to cut-backs in Federal and State funds for such training and lack of salary incentives to attract students to enter this vital field.

For further information address Assemblyman Jack Fenton, Rm. 3112, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone 916-445-0854.

Giving Credit Where It's Due

Credits were not given for pictures used in the February-March REPORTER. The picture of Don Edwards with Mayfair School students was taken by Mercury Staff Photographer Al Magazu. The picture on page 2, showing Mayfair School staff members was taken by Janice Kiernan, Mayfair teacher.

The illustration of the Hydrologic Cycle, on page 5, was taken from the 59-page Survey: "What About Water?" prepared by Philip P. Dickinson, Technical Consultant to the Committee on Science and Astronautics of the U.S. House of Representatives. The story appeared on page 2.

Union Carbide trial exhibit UC-1383: Floyd H. Larrison, Jr. to E. S. Prochnik Forwarding California Farmer Consume… Published by AsbestosClaims.Law

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