INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

MINING AND METALS DIVISION • P. O. BOX 6, KING CITY, CALIFORNIA 93930

To (Name)
Division
Location

Mr. E. S. Prochnik
Public Relations Dept.
4th Floor, New York

Date May 9, 1973

Originating Dept.

Answering letter date

Subject



Copy to

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

At the request of Mr. Beverly, I am sending you a copy of a newspaper article, which appeared in the Salinas Californian on 3-6-73, about the King City Asbestos Operation.

The accompanying article, which reports Dr. Irving Selikoff's testimony before a Senate sub-committee, appeared in the San Jose Mercury on 2-24-73. I was contacted by the Salinas Californian reporter who requested a comment about Dr. Selikoff's testimony from Union Carbide. The reporter was informed that we had no comment. However, the problems in general, our concern, and actions we are taking, were discussed. The Californian article resulted.

Very truly yours,

Floyd H. Larrison, Jr.
Manager King City Operation

/clg
encl:

MAY 11 1973

Niagara Falls Gazette
2-24-73

Million deaths by 2,000 seen caused by asbestos

N.F. Gaz. 2 pt 2 2/24/73

WASHINGTON (AP) — A doctor has predicted that one million Americans will die by the year 2000 from diseases caused by asbestos fibers.

Dr. Irving Selikoff of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York said the victims will be persons who are or have been working regularly with the fibrous mineral.

"All will die within the next 30 to 35 years," he told the Senate Commerce environmental subcommittee Friday.

Selikoff said asbestos is a "hidden time bomb," causing cancer that may not be detected for 20, 30 or even 40 years.

Of the one million workers who already have been exposed, he said 200,000 will die of lung cancer, 70,000 of asbestosis, or lung scarring, and 150,000 of various cancers. The rest will die of other ailments, Selikoff said.

He added that millions of other persons are exposed to asbestos fibers to an unknown degree every day of their lives, without their knowledge.

The subcommittee was told that more than 3,000 consumer products and a host of building materials contain asbestos, which accumulates in the human lungs.

He said other common sources are in the talc used in polished rice and balloons to keep them from sticking together, and papier mache used in school art classes.

The Food and Drug Administration last year issued regulations banning the use of asbestos in garments, and has proposed a ban on asbestos-laden talc in food and food packaging.

Slikoff and other witnesses expressed support for a toxic-substances control bill.

Albert J. Fritsch, a director of the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest, told the subcommittee:

"We need a bill to cover all phases of asbestos use and we need pretesting, health research, labeling and environmental controls."

Selikoff added that, "Unfortunately it's almost entirely a man-made disease. That means it's also man-preventable."

Union Carbide trial exhibit UC-1384: Floyd H. Larrison, Jr. to E. S. Prochnik Forwarding Newspaper Articles on Dr...
ACL Doc 16521 · Page 3 of 3

Salinas Californian Newspaper
March 6, 1973

Safety Primary Concern at Asbestos Plant

By MYRNA ALVITRE
Californian Staff Writer

KING CITY — At Union Carbide Company's asbestos processing plant here, safety measures are of primary concern.

The fibrous mineral, popular as an insulating material, has been termed, "a hidden time bomb" by a New York researcher.

The company is presently installing several hundred thousand dollars worth of dust collecting equipment and sprinkling systems to protect the health of its employes and the public.

The equipment will bring Union Carbide's King City plant into compliance with more stringent regulations put into effect by governmental agencies over the past two years. The latest agency to set regulations for emission of asbestos dust is the Environmental Protection Agency which is regulating the release of the dust into rivers and the atmosphere.

Floyd Larrison, King City plant manager, reports that emissions of asbestos dust into the atmosphere have been regulated by the government for at least four years. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor has established rules for the protection of asbestos plant employes.

"Our operation has always conformed with government limits," states Larrison.

Larrison explains that the company will be adding equipment to collect dust and fiber mediums before they can be released into the air. Sprinkling equipment will prevent the dust from being carried away by the wind or by traffic passing the plant on U.S. 101, five miles south of King City.

Wet Process

Larrison explains that Union Carbide uses a wet process in processing asbestos to alleviate the dust problem.

Dr. Irving Selikoff of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York testified before a Senate subcommittee last month that by the year 2000 the fibrous mineral will have claimed the lives of one million persons who are or have been working regularly with asbestos.

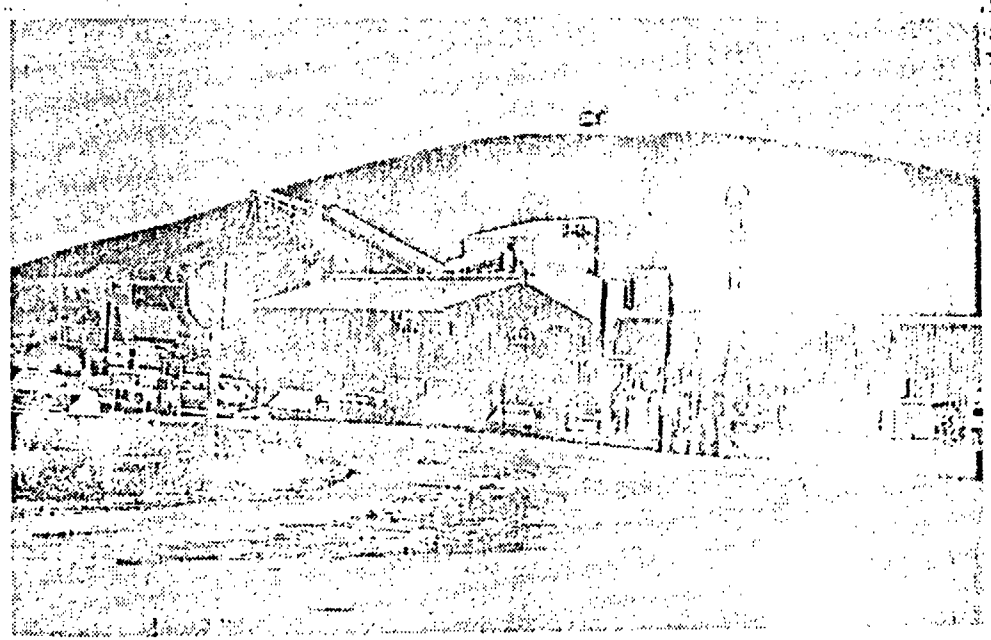
Larrison reports, "To our knowledge, no one at Union Carbide has experienced any adverse effects from asbestos dust since the plant opened in the fall of 1963.

"Each of our employes undergoes an annual physical examination at company expense. We use respirators in certain areas of our operation where dust concentrations are above, or are suspected to be above, allowable limits," Larrison said.

Monthly air samplings at the plant and monthly inspections of the premises by a safety committee of hourly wage employes, accompanied by salaried personnel, are other measures taken by the company to protect its workers.

Union Carbide employs between 51 and 56 persons in its office, in the King City mill and at the asbestos mines in the New Idria area of San Benito County.

The company processes asbestos for use in a variety of products including floor tile, ceiling board and oil well drilling.



KING CITY'S Union Carbide asbestos plant.
(Californian Photo)

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/16521/3