INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION • 270 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

To (Name) W. N. Johnson
Division Mining & Metals
Location 38th Floor

Date September 5, 1972

Originating Dept. Medical Department

Answering letter date

Copy to E. A. Piersall
Drs. J. J. Welsh/K. S. Lane

Subject **CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Bill:

At this time we do not regard the use of a gravimetric system for evaluation of asbestos with much favor. We have tried it briefly at King City in comparison with the count system but found no correlation between the two. Our tests were limited, of course, because we did not have time for exploration of the system in depth; nevertheless, I feel the conclusions were valid.

As a second point, I strongly question the use of typical mixtures (asbestos) as reasonably applicable to all the many uses of asbestos. For our products, in particular, the potential error in the "typical" approach is very great.

Finally, the possibility of error in determining weights of small quantities of particulates as would be obtained in the use of personal air samplers is very high. Nothing less than extreme care in physical handling of the samples, in drying, and in control of inherent potential balance errors such as those that reflect temperature variations, static electricity, vibration, etc. would be acceptable; and even with this effort, I wouldn't be at all surprised to have some samples reflect weights completely at odds with the visible conditions. Results, therefore, would be rightly open to question.

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As you are aware, we are not very happy with the present system of fiber evaluation and, consequently, we are still searching for something better. Unfortunately, the weight procedure offers no improvement so far.

Yours very truly,

Paul

Paul W. McDaniel
Industrial Hygiene Engineer

PWM:mc

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