UV 0136 #2

UC 149-2
18585

UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

MATERIALS ENGINEERING CENTRAL FILE

P. O. BOX 471, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590

TO: W. W. Long, B1

DATE: 4-2-87

CC: W. W. Henderson, B1
J. A. Roberts, B62
R. W. Engle, Tech
J. F. Riffle, Tech
G. L. Rivera, B1
MOC - No Attachments

SUBJECT: Asbestos Containing Gaskets & Packings/ Variance Procedures

INDEX: 18,32,33,50,112,113,137, 157,357

Dear Wally:

Attached are documents from G. B. Elder and C. C. Neely on the phase out of asbestos-containing materials within UCC. We are being asked to discourage the use of asbestos-containing gaskets and packing now, in order to minimize disposal problems in the future. Although asbestos materials can still be bought and used, they will soon become increasingly difficult to obtain (because of Suppliers insurance premiums), and the price is bound to soar.

As we have stated previously, the only approved non-asbestos substitutes for gaskets and packing are Teflon and Grafoil. These can be used in almost all of the chemicals handled at Texas City. As with all materials though, they have their service limitations. Among these are teflon's upper temperature limit of about 450°F and Grafoil's low resistance to sulfuric acid. The Corrosion and Materials Group should be consulted when in doubt on specific cases.

This change will undoubtedly highlight the concern more and more people are having. Specifically, how to document substitutions or variances to the Valve and Piping Specifications. Many substitutions are upgrades in material (i.e. Grafoil for asbestos) or due to discrepancies in the specifications. I would venture to say there are numerous substitutions to Valve and Piping Specs, daily in maintenance work. In most cases, these are perfectly acceptable from a technical standpoint. However, there may be little or no documentation. The Variance procedure in the Plant Engineering Criteria Manual and the Plant Procedure I-G-13 Facilities/Operations Change Review are designed primarily for project work. Because of all the signatures and reviews required, there is a tendency not to follow these procedures for seemingly minor variations to a mandatory standard.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
UC-2418

Union Carbide trial exhibit UC-2418: T. F. Laundrie to W. W. Long on Asbestos-Containing Gaskets and Packings a... Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
ACL Doc 17397 · Page 1 of 2 asbestosclaims.law/library/17397/1

I recommend the Texas City Plant develop a simplified procedure to document approved material substitutions or variances to mandatory standards. Otherwise, there may continue to be a problem with proper documentation.

I'll be glad to discuss these issues with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Tom Laundrie

T. F. Laundrie

TFL/vb

UCC 015733