Insulators Health Hazard Program

511 Machinists Building
1300 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 785-2150

May 14, 1975

Mr. W.C. Thurber
Union Carbide Corporation
Mining and Metals Division
270 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Thurber:

This is in reference to your communication of May 5, 1975 and the various information you supplied in regards to amendments to Senator Milton Marks' legislation. I would like to make the following comments.

1. I am deeply concerned over the handling of the dry materials such as the methods of mixing and the precautions and safety equipment which are to be used. What safety precautions and equipment would be used in the cleanup, especially of the overspray after drying?

2. I noticed the various percentages of asbestos that are in the different mixtures and find that they run as high as approximately 20%. We have many statistics to show that our people who have been exposed to less than the two fiber amount, which will become the law under OSHA next year, are still experiencing severe difficulties healthwise with asbestosis and the many other diseases associated with asbestos. This includes wives, children and other people who do not know they are being exposed to the above product. We are naturally concerned with asbestos exposure to anyone, regardless if they are affiliated or not with any individual union.

3. What consequences are experienced from erosion, abrasion, damage to the finished products, cutting, sanding, etc.?

4. Although you mention the use of just a small percent or amount of asbestos, I again question the amount which rises to approximately 20%. This is a greater percentage than many of the products we have used in the past such as pipe covering and flat block materials containing asbestos.

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We feel that we would have to take a very close look at the many different applications, including the overspray effect, before we could reach any conclusions regarding changes in Senator Marks' legislation.

We are not overly concerned about a wet or sealed in application but the effects before and after application is our main worry with asbestos in a dry state.

We sincerely hope that you can answer the above questions to our satisfaction and that a mutual understanding can be reached.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Roy J. Steinfurth
Insulators' Health Hazard Program

RJS:mgm

CC: Dr. Irving J. Selikoff
Senator Milton Marks
Dr. Bill Nicholson
Dr. Duncan Holaday
Mr. Ed Story

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UNION CARBIDE

May 5, 1975

Mr. Roy J. Steinfurth, Administrator
Insulators Health Hazard Program
511 Machinist Building
1300 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Steinfurth:

As a follow-up to today's telephone conversation, I am enclosing for your information copies of correspondence which we directed through the California Manufacturers Association to Senator Milton Marks regarding proposed additional exemptions to the recently enacted California law relating to the spraying of asbestos.

As you can see from this information, we are suggesting that certain additional materials in which relatively small amounts of asbestos are contained in a liquid binder and applied by spraying can be exempted without jeopardizing the health of the individual worker or the general public. The data clearly show that the air-borne asbestos concentration generated during the spraying of paints, textured coatings, polyester resins, asphalt base roofing materials and the like are substantially below the 2 fiber/cc time-weighted average value which is soon to become the national standard. While we are convinced that the spraying of essentially pure asbestos with little or no binder for fireproofing and insulation is a totally inappropriate use of this material, we are also convinced that the same ban should not apply to the spraying of materials containing small amounts of asbestos well wet out by a permanent binder.

After you have had the opportunity to review this material, I hope that you will be able to indicate to your colleagues in California that the additional exemptions we are proposing represent a reasonable application for asbestos.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in evaluating this material, please let me know.

Very truly yours,
"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
W. C. THURBER"

W. C. Thurber
Product Manager - Asbestos

WCT/es
Enclosures
bcc: Messrs. F. H. Larrison - with attachments
H. B. Rhodes - without "
P. McAmis - " "

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