WV-0169 #9

ALR - File in SW Sts. Appropriate file. TR

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION

CENTRAL ENGINEERING

SOUTH CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

MEMORANDUM

January 3, 1985

RECEIVED
JAN 4 1985

To: M. E. Carter - 510

cc. R. C. Ellis
J. L. Riffle
R. W. Engle
A. W. Kenne - 510
J. M. McBride - 510
D. T. Watters
E. C. Powell, Jr.
G. B. Elder
C. C. Neely
W. G. Ashbaugh

ASBESTOS GASKETS

This is in response to your letter of December 18, 1984 on the above subject directed to E. C. Powell, Jr. In your letter you asked if we should consider using Flexitallic Flexite™ filler in their spiralwound gaskets.

First, let me state that our valve and piping specifications currently specify both compressed asbestos and asbestos-filled spiralwound gaskets. We have no plans to eliminate asbestos as a gasket and packing material. Asbestos fibers in these items are incapsulated and do not present the health hazard of asbestos in other items.

Second, extensive laboratory and service testing of asbestos-free materials as possible replacements for asbestos gaskets and packing would be necessary to establish the suitability of the asbestos-free materials from both a mechanical and a fluid-service-suitability standpoint. We do not see the necessity of giving any priority to such testing, although some testing has been done. (Some of it has indicated that asbestos-free materials are definitely not replacements for asbestos.) Actually, I requested our MOC materials laboratory some time ago to test Flexite™. They have not scheduled the testing yet.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
UC-4235

UCC 010604

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