

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Occupational Safety and Health
Washington, D.C. 20210



AUG - 3 2004

Mr. William P. Kelly
President
Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition
1133 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Kelly:

I would like to take this opportunity to again recognize the effort that the Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition (RCFC) is taking to provide protection to workers exposed to refractory ceramic fibers. We commend the efforts the RCFC is taking to address the elements defined in its voluntary workplace protection program. These efforts provide an example of the government and private sector commitment to a better understanding of employee exposures and improvement of working conditions.

We have had an opportunity to review the Second Annual Report provided to us in March 2004. We found the report to be insightful, descriptive, detailed and focused on how to improve employee exposures and protect worker safety and health. Through the use of increased exposure monitoring, training and employee medical surveillance, the RCFC has demonstrated a commitment to worker protection.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate the RCFC, its member companies, and their customers on meeting or exceeding all of the Product Stewardship Program (PSP 2002) goals for 2003. These goals include the reduction of exposures to refractory ceramic fibers in primary manufacturing, the increased use of respiratory protection, and the implementation of engineering controls. Your data demonstrates that you achieved these goals and we welcome the opportunity to continue our support of your efforts. We feel that the work being done by the participants in the PSP 2002 will greatly assist in the protection of workers in the refractory ceramic fibers industry now and in future years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Henshaw".

John L. Henshaw

cc: Dean Venturin, Unifrax Corporation