

RYAN-BIGGS

December 17, 2010

Mr. Wayne St. Clair  
Superintendent of Engineering  
BASF Corporation  
36 Riverside Avenue  
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Re: BASF Rensselaer  
Masonry Smokestack Evaluation  
Ryan-Biggs Project 9960

Dear Wayne:

At your request, I visited the BASF facility in Rensselaer, New York, on December 15, 2010, to perform a structural assessment of the remaining portion of the existing masonry smokestack that was part of Building 65.

As previously discussed on the phone, you said that the demolition of all the buildings that were part of the Rensselaer facility has been completed, except for the 200-foot-tall smokestack. Removal of the upper portion of the smokestack had begun, but was recently stopped. You wanted to know if the smokestack can remain in its current condition until next spring or summer or if there are safety concerns indicating demolition of the smokestack should proceed right away.

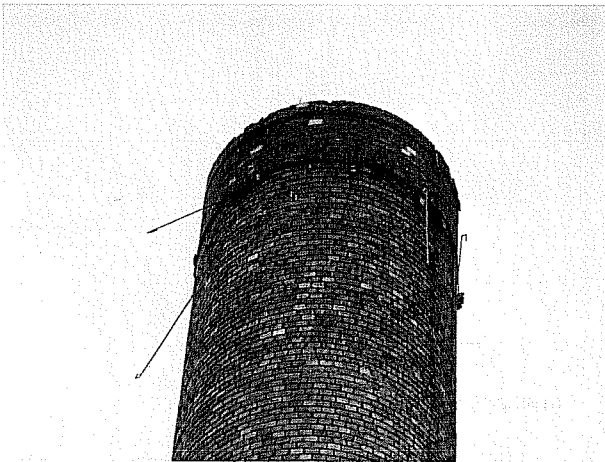
The opinions and comments stated in this letter are based on limited visual observations made from the ground only. For the assessment of the smokestack, no physical testing or removals were performed. My assessment only identified areas of possible concern with the overall structural integrity and general safety of the smokestack.

## Conditions/Observations

Based on my observations and reference to photographs taken during our 2007 and 2009 building condition surveys, it appears that about 20 feet of the top of the smokestack had been removed during the recent demolition operations. The smokestack was originally part of an existing building with the lower base (approximately 30 feet) of the smokestack concealed within that building.

The base of the smokestack appeared generally sound with only minor areas of loose brick and mortar. The foundation is concealed below grade, but there were no signs of any issues with the foundation that would affect the main exposed portion of the smokestack.

At the upper portions of the chimney, there were areas of loose brick and mortar visible; however, the condition of these areas was not as bad as the top of the smokestack that has already been removed. The base and upper portions of the smokestack can be seen in Photographs 1, 2, and 3.



Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3

## Conclusions/Recommendations

In general, the overall structural integrity of the smokestack appears sound with respect to collapse or being blown down in high winds. However, there are areas of loose brick and mortar in several areas, and there is a possibility of small portions of the masonry coming loose and falling to the ground with continued weathering.

I believe the chimney can remain in its current condition without concern of collapse until next summer when the demolition operations resume. However, since there is the possibility of falling debris locally around the smokestack, an area extending about 20 feet around the base of the smokestack should be barricaded to keep people out of this area.

Please call me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

RYAN-BIGGS ASSOCIATES, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Miller" being the most prominent parts.

Michael C. Miller, P.E.  
Sr. Associate

MCM/jed/9960-LT-01