11/19

11/19

[redacted]
January 16, 1951

O.B. Westmont - Lompoc

Aluminum Therapy Research - Personnel

I have noted with interest copy of Mr. Anderson's letter to you dated January 9 on the above.

I was particularly anxious to have Mr. Irvin visit Lompoc so that Mr. Anderson, Mr. Loomis and yourself could have a [redacted] chance to discuss this subject with him. Certainly, all of us are making every effort to provide a healthful setup for our employees. Our efforts are continuing as actively as possible in the prevention of dust conditions and you, further have a medical program to keep you advised and to contact you with personal information on the handling and treatment of any disabilities and we also [redacted] interested in any additional method of improving the health and protection of our employees.

Our information and advice until this past Summer on the subject of aluminum therapy was that the treatment or protective use of [redacted] did not have sufficient background to enable any medical [redacted] definitely advise us on the efficiency. This Summer, when we visited [redacted] for the first time Dr. Vorwald and his associates showed [redacted] therapy on their experimental animals with silica dusts [redacted]. This then was covered in my conversation to [redacted]. It was advised at that time that Dr. Vorwald had [redacted] which he felt was even more effective than the [redacted] and that one of checking the effects of this product, [redacted] on the X-Ray proved this to be so. After some discussion it was suggested that Dr. Vorwald could give us an estimate of running experimental [redacted] with aluminum therapy and Mexora. Vorlard, Gunning and the writer were [redacted] interested in such a program. Meanwhile, Dr. Loomis was writing [redacted] set up the program give us a confidential observation on the [redacted] of some of our men at Lompoc. Other than removing men from the presence of the dust at the plant, there was no [redacted] recommendation made. The [redacted] from Lompoc was clear you and Dr. Anderson and it was [redacted] at that in September that this would be, in most cases at this time, a [redacted]. During the discussion in New York with Dr. Loomis after his trip and the above report, the writer, having in mind the discussion with Dr. Vorwald in June on aluminum therapy, questioned Dr. Loomis directly as to whether or not [redacted] believed that aluminum therapy would be helpful at Lompoc. Dr. Loomis [redacted] question, had discussed this subject with Dr. Schepers, the [redacted] plant of the Hamburg Norwegian firms in Canada, studying aluminum therapy. Dr. Schepers had advised Dr. Loomis that he felt that a treatment of this type had merit and that he planned to introduce it in So. Africa.

The writer questioned Dr. Loomis as to whether or not the Aluminum Company of America had ever had any difficulty with any of their men not from aluminum poisoning. Dr. Loomis thereupon stated that he was well acquainted with Dr. Irvin, of the Aluminum Company

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11083/1

of America, who likewise was fully acquainted with the whole subject of aluminum therapy and that he would have a conversation with Dr. Irwin to not only obtain his advice and information on the effect of aluminum powder on the Aluminum Company employees but that he would get additional information from Dr. Irwin on the subject of aluminum therapy. As a result of the information obtained above, Messrs. Jackson, Woodard and the writer visited the McIntyre Porcupine Mines and obtained the entire story, so far as it was possible from Mr. Hamlo at the McIntyre Mines.

The final outcome of all of the above, which included an additional trip by Mr. Jackson to the McIntyre Mines and further consultations with Drs. Lemon, Irwin and Hannon, was to the effect that the solubility tests should be run on aluminum hydrate as compared to the McIntyre aluminum powder and that we should use the product which showed the greatest silica insolubility.

In the meantime, we had asked for a definite program from Dr. Vorwald. We had also received a firsthand story from Dr. Irwin and Dr. Hannon on the practical application of aluminum therapy in the plumbo.

The analytical tests are proceeding and Dr. Cummins telephoned me Friday the very startling preliminary information that the black aluminum McIntyre powder produced an almost insoluble condition of dicalcite (Super Floss dried) in the preliminary experiments. We are planning to test at Manville Hyflo, Filter-Cel, Snow Floss, 505 and Super Floss to run the entire range of particle size and calcined condition of our products. Messrs. Woodard and the writer have been discussing the subject of Dr. Vorwald's program and what we should actually do, even though we received the above preliminary information from Dr. Cummins.

As the matter stands, so far as the application of aluminum therapy is concerned, there is a very decided unsatisfactory backlog of experience on the use of the McIntyre aluminum powder. We have no information distinctly on the results of the aluminum hydrate. Neither Drs. Lemon, Irwin or Hannon see any reason why the application of the McIntyre powder should be either less helpful. So far as we can determine Dr. Vorwald has never progressed, either then on a small scale, the product which he is favoring. Our tests so carried out at Lompoc have taken so long to complete that if we follow Dr. Vorwald's advice and wait for the animal dusting powder experiments to be completed with his aluminum hydrate, we will be able to do nothing until 1954.

In the meantime, unless we run at the same time in his animal testing experiments, the McIntyre powder, we will have no information as to whether one was better than the other.

In view of all of the above, I wrote Mr. Woodard under date of January 4 advising that our program at Lompoc should include the testing of both products. I expressed myself further on the subject of the cement lining mice in that same letter.

I am reviewing all of the above so that you can discuss this subject with Mr. Anderson and so that he will know just exactly what we are thinking. If Mr. Anderson has any ideas on the whole subject, we welcome and solicit his views and we would likewise wish this information as quickly as possible.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11083/2

The views expressed on carcinogenic properties on the dust is of immediate interest and, in my estimation, make it all the more important that the laboratory work be carried out if for no other reason than to determine the relation between the actual results, as for observed at Lompoc, as compared to that we will develop in the laboratory dusting procedure. In this connection, certainly the writer is not very happy about having to depend upon the animal testing, as it has been carried out to date, but we are in hopes that as time goes on procedures and conditions will be established for the laboratory work, which will give helpful information.

Regarding a copy of the proposed Research Program, I see no reason why this should not be sent to you to obtain the added views of yourself and Dr. Anderson and I am attaching a copy of the program for your inspection. Will you kindly return it with your comments.

Arthur Elsenbast.

cc: J.P. Woodard

P.S.....Since writing the above, this subject has been discussed again with Mr. Woodard and I find that our medical advisors believe that the beginning of making the carcinogenic test on the cancer bearing mice to be unsatisfactory at this time that they recommend strongly against such test. We will, therefore, not proceed with that part of the program at this time but are working it up for review one year from to date. Mr. Woodard and I have discussed further the subject and will proceed with Dr. Vorwald's program as presently laid out.

In addition, Mr. Woodard is getting in touch with Dr. Hamer until the preliminary and other arrangements necessary to start the aluminum therapy at Lompoc, which undoubtedly will entail a visit by Dr. Hamer to survey and implement such setup. Then, Dr. Anderson and your staff, along with Dr. [illegible] will have to discuss there and how the therapy can most properly and satisfactorily be applied.

A.E.B.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11083/3