CANADIAN Johns-Manville CO., LIMITED

ASBESTOS FIBRE DIVISION

JM

TEL. 100

P.O. BOX 1500
ASBESTOS, QUEBEC

January 25, 1950.

Dr. Arthur J. Vorwald,
Director,
The Trudeau Foundation,
Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Dear Art:-

You have asked a few questions on the subject of pulmonary malignancy among our employees. I shall answer them in the same order as listed in your letter.

(1) We have approximately 6500 files in our x-ray library. Each file is the complete x-ray history of the individual man during his working period for this Company. These x-rays were started in 1935 and I would say approximately 3000 of the files have consecutive annual examinations for the past fifteen years.

(2) I believe that there are at least 11 cases with x-ray evidence of asbestosis in our files. There may be a few more, but I have not seen them. Dr. Stevenson, who ran this clinic before I came did not keep any regular file of the results of the x-ray examinations and for the past year I have been trying to make a complete survey of all these 6500 files. This is a very lengthy process, and as our library is not separated into active and inactive employees, I may pick up one or two more cases of asbestosis who have left our employ.

(3) I have not seen any pulmonary shadows which lead me to suspect malignancy.

(4) We have had no cases of proven pulmonary malignancy. I have tried to check this with the local health unit and the private doctors, but they recall no one in this town who has been diagnosed as having a pulmonary malignancy.

(5) Having had no known cases of malignancy, the answer to this question is obvious.

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This information probably will not be satisfactory for your plans. I can only hope that sometime during this year I shall be able to complete the study of all the 6500 files, and then will be able to give you a better picture. What really should be done, is a very thorough full-time study of all our x-rays, but as this would necessitate reading over 100,000 x-ray films, you can see that it will take some time for me to complete the job.

I plan to go to Thetford to see Paul this week and shall discuss the matter with him. Later on, probably around the middle of February, Paul and I hope to go to Saranac to review with you and George the results of all the examinations of our men which have been completed. Possibly at that time you will have some ideas of how we shall proceed to get this information.

Please remember me to Madge. I do hope that you will have all health and happiness during the coming year.

Sincerely yours,

KWS/h.n.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

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