Confidential

Minutes of Scientific Relations Sub-Committee (E.H.P.C.)

February 17, 1969

Present: H. Jackson, B. Jobe, K. Lindell, F. Pundsack, I. Sabourin, and G. Wright (Chairman).

1) The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (Dept. HEW - USA) under the direction of Dr. Paul Kotin is mounting a study of mesothelioma on a national scale. It will combine epidemiology and pathology.

2) Insulation Industry Hygiene Program: (Pundsack). After visiting 22 places - all of which were classed as dusty - 2 have been suggested as sites for extensive environmental sampling by personal and high volume equipment.

Face masks developed by J-M have reached stage of field trial to be done in Chicago. A consulting group is also working on design to give better downward vision.

"In bag" mixing of insulation has reached cost analysis of packaging.

J-M looking at problem of "extracting" minerals from asbestos.

News letter insert in Insulation Worker NewsLetter has reached final stages and contains nothing sensational. What it will consist of in the future is unknown.

Selikoff now interested in solid waste disposal on broader scale than "insulation". Speaks of separate funding for this. Caution must be exercised to keep him from diluting primary responsibility.

3) Current status of J-M x-ray reading program:

Bristol's data shows 30 % (18/60) of current Bilerica employees have asbestosis by x-ray. This may be a place to study amosite and mesothelioma question. Of 500 Manville employees (chiefly textile) 24% have asbestosis by x-ray. It is anticipated that these are the two groups most likely to show abnormality. The question of taping this data with other pertinent parameters in a way to retrieve information rapidly was discussed with C. McDonald who says this is entirely feasible. There is a long way to go still in reading films.

4) Inland Division of General Motors held conference in Cleveland. Purpose: What are known biological effects of asbestos and how to protect the worker. Their Physician, next day, indicated that they have already explored use of other materials in brake lining but found none to be economically feasible.



5) Dr. C. McDonald of McGill University currently in charge of the epidemiologic survey of Thetford and Asbestos under the auspices of IOEH has some interest in setting up schedules of pulmonary function measurements pre- and post employment at Asbestos or Thetford. This was discussed in some detail. The question of whether this should proceed on an experimental or

company contract basis is important and needs to be discussed further with an appropriate person.

6) Current J-M Research related to health (Pundsack):

Pipe test loop shows severe loss of non-asbestos portion with water at a pH of 5.5 and 0 hardness. This leaves internal mat of asbestos fiber. With water pH 6.5 and a harder water, virtually no loss and the luminal surface shows no change. They plan a second study of fiber in municipal water to be done with better identification of the filtered materials.

They now have environmental test lab to study effects of weathering etc. on other products that might lead to loss of fiber as for example from roofing or floor tiles.

Recent study of beer shows more fibers than the British report. There is a question of a meaning of this from the technical point of view.

7) The question of who should do directed research for J-M with respect to getting most benefit from the point of view of public and scientific acceptance was raised. Work done "in house" or by groups who are chiefly industry supported suffer in this respect. Attention should be given to this question.

8) Bert Jobe pointed out that with respect to fiberglass we are in a similar position to that with respect to asbestos fiber both in relationship to the cancer question and also to the question of small diameter of fibers. The latter is par-

ticularly true with our rapid changes in technology. After a brief discussion it seemed apparent that some systematic and definitive study of the cancer problem in fiber glass exposures should be mounted as soon as it is feasible to do so in order to forestall unwarranted accusations that might be carried over from the asbestos fiber controversey as well as our need to know the true situation in terms of protecting employees and users of the product.

(George W. Wright, M.D.)

cc: H. Jackson

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