MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
of The City University of New York
FIFTH AVENUE AND 100TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10029

Department of Community Medicine

June 28, 1971

Mr. J. B. Jobe
Johns-Manville Industries
22 East 40th Street
New York, New York 10016

Dear Burt:

I very much appreciated the opportunity of reviewing with you, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Marchant, Dr. Fundsack, Mr. Sabourin, Mr. Solen and Dr. Wright, our proposed research concerning an effective surveillance program, designed to review and document the suitability of the environmental control measures that have been and are being introduced in Manville.

When Local 800 of the Papermakers and Paperworkers Union asked Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond and me to advise them regarding how the effectiveness, in terms of human health, of the new control measures might be monitored, we were impressed with the logic of this approach, especially in view of their new joint responsibilities, with J-M, in your Environmental Committee. I was confident that I would find, and I did, that you and your colleagues were similarly committed to the solution of such health problems as might exist.

Dr. Hammond and I have reviewed with Local 800 data, records, etc., available to them which would be useful in the conduct of this research and we are now considering the most appropriate design for the study. We find that our work would be facilitated and its usefulness enhanced if some additional data, limited to the purposes of this investigation, could be made available.

1. It will be necessary to exactly characterize the group of J-M employees represented by the Union that we will be studying prospectively, from a point of time in the past. While the Union has much information concerning these people (age, sex, employment status, departmental category, etc.) it would be useful to be able to confirm some of these data from an independent source. For example, it would be advantageous to be sure about the exact date of an employment and, if possible, to know whether there had been prior J-M employment.

(Interrogatory #30, parts (a), (b) & (c).)

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2. Since analysis of the tempo, extent and degree of radiographic change might prove a useful guide to evaluating the effectiveness of control measures, the opportunity of reviewing prior x-rays of the individuals included in this investigation, might be most informative.

3. We are particularly interested in the experiences of groups of individuals who have had little or no adverse health effects; evaluation of their exposure and work conditions might provide much helpful data for analysis. Identification of such groups would be useful.

It is our hope that J-M will find it possible to assist in this research, providing access to the data outlined above. We believe this request is made with the expectation that the planned research will be of considerable benefit both to Local 800 and to J-M, since all must look to the elimination of unnecessary health hazards in this important industry. We understand that this will not happen overnight and that, however effective new control measures are in preventing future disease, our legacy of the past, in which inadequate appreciation of the problem was reflected by inadequate control measures, will plague us for some years. What better activity in these years than all necessary effort to ensure solution of the problem.

It is not our intention that your cooperation hurt you. We understand that the data provided would be for research purposes only. Insofar as any individual is concerned, it would remain entirely confidential. In particular, where problems of workmen's compensation may be considered by others, we would not participate in such consideration, and the data being examined by us would, as noted, remain confidential.

We hope that J-M will find it possible to cooperate with us in this work. We would consider this an extention of its stated and recognized policy of the rapid development and introduction of the control measures needed to eliminate health hazards that might exist.

Sincerely yours,

Irving J. Selikoff, M.D.
Professor

IJS:sa

cc: E. Cuyler Hammond
Joseph Mondrono
Robert Klinger
[illegible]

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