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CONFIDENTIAL

General Headquarters
July 9, 1955

K. A. Gervais

Attached are two charts giving the results of the X-ray survey which I completed last week at your location. The first chart indicates that I reviewed all the available films on 335 employees. The X-ray readings were divided into three categories: negative, doubtful, and definite occupational disease. You will recall that many of the X-rays were of poor quality so that accurate diagnosis was impossible. With better X-rays there probably would be no further definite occupational disease cases noted so that the total of 79 would remain unchanged. There were two salaried and 41 hourly disease cases. With improved X-rays this number might be lowered. The chart also shows that 19 employees had no X-ray films because they had refused to participate in our physical examination program.

In the second chart I have listed the 43 disease cases in terms of length of service and various age groups. You will note that there are 13 cases under the age of 50. I believe that we must assume these will be probable compensation claims.

In the age group of 50 to 54 there are 13 cases which may or may not become claims depending on further dust exposure and intercurrent infections.

In the age group 55 to 59 there are 12 cases. I believe that with any luck at all these men should be able to maintain their present health status living out their normal life span with no disability, and, of course, no compensation claim against the Company.

There are five cases in the age group of 60+. I do not believe that these men will suffer disability or become claim cases.

These figures are presented to give you some idea of the extent of occupational disease in your plant. Your efforts at controlling the dust are highly commendable for you have obtained excellent results in recent months. However, I would suggest that this should be continued so that no further disease will become evident. Because of the doubtful quality of some of the X-ray films, I do not believe that the present figures should be used by the Finance Office for accrual purposes for potential compensation claims. This might be possible when better films are obtained next year.

KENNETH W. SMITH, M.D.

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enclosures
cc: I. D. Vernon
V. H. Iodice - Nashua