CONFIDENTIAL.

Asbestos, Que.,
Nov. 27, 1948.

W.A. Young - Toronto Plant .

ASBESTOSIS AND SILICOSIS HAZARDS.

In my opinion the best way to prove to the employees at your plant that there is no hazard to their health is to maintain a good housekeeping and dust prevention program. Bulletins, prepared talks etc are of no avail if the men see for themselves that the operation is dirty or dusty.

Specifically, I would point out to the men that there is no hazard in the Rock Wool Department because you use no asbestos fibre nor any silica preparation in that operation. Actually, but not for general publication, it has been found that rock wool can sometimes do develop rather obstinate cases of pneumonia when working with rock wool. The exact cause has not been determined and its occurrence is very rare. As a matter of fact, I never saw one case here when the operation was at Asbestos.

There is a definite hazard in the Transite Pipe Department. First, in the mixing of the dry products, asbestos fibre and silica flour. Here, great care should be taken in the way the bags are handled. The men should wear respirators if any dust is raised.

Second, where the wet products are allowed to spill from the machine onto the floor and allowed to dry. This will be pulverized by men and machines passing over it and so create dust.

Third, the lathes present the greatest hazard of all. This operation should be well ventilated for in the cutting of the pipe, the smaller and most dangerous particles of fibre and silica are freed. Respirators should be worn.

One other source of danger should be watched, namely the Receiving Department. The unloading of fibre and silica flour and stock piling can be hazardous if the men are sloppy and break bags. Careful work here is the best solution to the problem.

To reiterate, I think that a very thorough housekeeping program should be maintained. The men should be taught to work carefully. The dust hoods and ventilating system at the lathes should be well designed and carefully maintained.

I am sure that the Industrial Hygiene Division of the Department of Health under Dr. Riddell is capable of taking dust counts. When your operation has become stabilized, I thing that Dr. Corson could have dust counts taken in the Pipe Dept. Then if you have proper housekeeping and good ventilation you will have the proof in your dust counts. Then you will be able to dispel any rumors which may arise. I do not believe that you will have any trouble with the asbestos fibre. You can point out that here at Asbestos where the fibre is mined and milled, among the thousands of men who have worked here, we have had only two cases accepted for compensation from asbestosis.

Finally, may I suggest that you set up an Industrial Hygiene Committee with regular monthly meetings as they have in most other plants. The [illegible] June 31/[illegible] outlines the composition and duties of such a committee and [illegible] acquainted with its operation.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

KWS/fg

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