Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To J. A. MCKINNEY

Date JAN. 14, 1977

From P. KOTIN, MD

Copies:

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Subject UPDATE OF DENISON AND STOCKTON X-RAY STUDIES

ATTACHED ARE UPDATES OF THE EMPLOYEE X-RAY SURVEYS CONDUCTED AT THE DENISON, TEXAS AND THE STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA PLANTS.

THE FILMS WERE READ BY DRS. GEORGE JACOBSON AND GEORGE WRIGHT. THE FINAL REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO ME BY DR. WRIGHT AFTER REVIEWING THE DUPLICATE READINGS OF THE FILMS.

AS YOU WILL NOTE FROM THE AVAILABLE DATA, DEFINITE PARENCHYMAL ASBESTOSIS ASCRIBABLE SOLELY TO EXPOSURE AT EITHER OF THESE TWO PLANTS HAS NOT BEEN DEMONSTRATED THUS FAR. PLEURAL CHANGES HAVE BEEN NOTED. IN THE X-RAY DIAGNOSIS OF ASBESTOS-EXPOSED WORKERS, THE TERM "PLEURAL ASBESTOSIS" HAS BEEN COINED. THERE REALLY IS NO SUCH SPECIFIC DISEASE, AND THE TERM HAS UTILITY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CAN BE CORRELATED WITH OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO ACTUAL LUNG DISEASE WHERE THE DIAGNOSIS CAN BE MADE WHEN THE CONDITION IS PRESENT IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT INSUFFICIENT TIME HAS ELAPSED TO PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS DISEASE AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE AT EITHER OF THESE TWO PLANTS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO CERTAINTY OF THIS.

IN SUMMARY, THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE ENGINEERING CONTROLS INSTALLED AT BOTH DENISON AND STOCKTON HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A CLEAR AND HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF ALL ASBESTOS-RELATED CHANGES, AND WITH UP TO THIS TIME SPECIFIC NON-OCCURRENCE OF ASBESTOS LUNG DISEASE.

YOU MAY BE CERTAIN THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS POPULATION VERY CLOSELY AND PROVIDE YOU WITH PERIODIC UPDATES.

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