Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: E. J. Riley - Marrero

Date: December 2, 1977

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Subject: MEDICAL PROGRAM - MARRERO, LA

My visit to the plant on November 16, 1977 was most interesting and informative. The housekeeping throughout the facility was excellent. A small amount of raw asbestos is used in the black line operation. It is well handled and the fiber counts are well below the TLV.

The medical program has deficiencies. The sputum cytology program at this location leaves a lot to be desired. There are a large percentage of the specimens returned as unsatisfactory. There are 80 hourly employees, 80% or more have 25 years or more service. The majority are illiterate. Henry Naquin has purchased a viewer and cassettes to show the employees how to produce the sputum. If this is not successful, an outside agency should be sought to obtain adequate specimens. I believe this program should be rigidly pursued at this location with an elderly workforce, many of whom have evidence of occupational disease.

There were many complaints about the hearing testing done by Hearex. I will discuss this with the head office of Hearex in the near future.

I met Drs. Logan and Nelson. They are both very personable and cooperative with the Marrero plant both with the physicals and accident cases. I visited their clinic located about one mile from the plant. They have good facilities. Their x-ray machine is old and incapable of producing high KV. I intend to review their x-rays to determine the adequacy of the technical quality. After inspection of the pulmonary function machine I doubt the accuracy of the results. I discussed the value of routine back x-rays on new hires. After due consideration, I recommend discontinuing this practice. X-rays of the spine should be taken only where clinical judgment indicates.

WRP/pls

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