May 17, 1954

Allen D. Brandt, Sc.D.
Medical Division
Bethelem Steel Company
Bethelem, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Brandt:

This is in reference to your phone call last week in which you inquired about any studies we might have made of asbestos dust in your Quincy yard.

In going over our files we did not find any reference to air studies but I did find a report by our physician, Dr. George E. Morris dated January 7, 1943. This report related to a visit made on December 15, 1942 with Dr. Merewether. The following paragraph appears in this report and might have some bearing on your problem.

"Drs. Manley and Merewether discussed the asbestosis problem and both agreed that a definite hazard exists, especially in the removal of old asbestos from ships which are being repaired. Dr. Merewether remarked that he was thankful that the present preparation sold as asbestos contains about 85% of a harmless magnesium silicate. He feels that it is this high concentration of a non-toxic substance that prevents us from seeing more pulmonary pathology from asbestos."

In addition, a possible asbestosis case was apparently reported at this yard early in 1942. This was in a man who had been engaged for 12 years in the installation of molded asbestos pipe insulation. We do not have the name of the worker nor do we have any record of how the case was terminated.

Sincerely yours,

Harvey B. Elkins
CHIEF OF LABORATORY

HBE/eln

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