Confidential

General Headquarters
May 12, 1952

M E M O R A N D U M:

Minutes of Meeting with Representatives of the
California State Department of Health and USPHS
Los Angeles - May 7

A meeting was held in Los Angeles on May 7 to develop plan for study of diatomaceous earth dust problems.

The following were present:

Dicalite:	Mr. Taylor, Mr. Harris, and Dr. Smart
Metropolitan:	Dr. Shepard
J-M:	Mr. Woodard
USPHS:	Mr. Doyle
California SDPH:	Drs. Merrill, Kriete, and Hollister

Mr. Doyle, of USPHS, presented to the group the attached sheet "A" as representing questions he thought should be taken up and answered in connection with the proposed study in the diatomaceous earth industry. He mentioned that this was drawn up largely from his knowledge of studies made in other industries, and that he is not intimately familiar with the present situation and, therefore, appreciates that some revisions are doubtless needed in his outline of questions in order for the outline to fit the present case.

The subject was discussed at length and in considerable detail. The following major points were arrived at:

I. It was agreed that the USPHS would assume basic and primary responsibility for the study, calling on the State people for assistance as may be required, because of their long experience in carrying out such studies and the fact that their findings might probably be subject to less question as to the objectivity of the study.

II. Mr. Doyle said that the usual practice in such a case is to assign one scientist (probably an M. D.) to be responsible for heading up and making the study. He would himself first make a preliminary study of the plants just to get an understanding of the general plant layout, operations, and facilities so he could best carry out the work.

III. It is understood that the study should, if possible, include not only J-M and Great Lakes Carbon, but other companies in the industry as well, and effort will be made on the part of the agency to include them.

IV. Mr. Doyle estimates the study will probably take a year to complete, and then perhaps an additional six months will be required to put the data together and make the final report.

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V. The point was made that employees in the plants concerned should know that a study is being made so there will be no question in their minds as to the reason for various people visiting the plants and making the types of checks that will be necessary. Someone raised, too, the question of degree of union participation. The companies stated they were in accord with having employees adequately informed, that union officials would be kept advised too, and that the companies would probably wish to put out general information directly to employees so that there would be no question of complete understanding.

VI. Mr. Doyle estimates it would be possible for the top scientist who is heading up the study (probably Dr. D. A. Birmingham) to make his preliminary visit to the plants in July.

VII. The present attached outline sheet "A" was to be reviewed and revised by Mr. Doyle, Dr. Merrill, and his assistants, with whatever help is needed from Drs. Smart and Anderson, and then again to be proposed in a preliminary fashion so that all interested parties, including the companies and their representatives, can suggest revisions.

In line with this, Mr. Doyle or Dr. Merrill will send to the companies a copy of the general over-all plan they develop, as well as a copy of a typical "agreement" which outlines the understanding with the companies when such studies are undertaken. This should be received within the next two or three weeks.

VIII. One point made by Mr. Doyle which is important to the industries is that it is the practice of the USPHS not to have any publicity for the studies that are under way, nor to give any publicity as such after they are completed and reported. The final report of the study is completed and made to the interested parties and is printed in their official USPHS documents.

Further, in line with this, a study does not identify individuals or specific companies. All of these items should be appropriately covered in the agreement with the USPHS in their undertaking the study. In fact, their own procedure requires that there be a clear understanding before a study is undertaken.

To sum up the understandings at this meeting:

A. A preliminary draft of the plan is to have been completed and sent to the representatives of the companies and those interested within two or three weeks.

B. The scientist (probably Dr. Birmingham) will visit the locations, probably in July.

C. There will be a final plan and agreement proposed, which will be subject to revision before it becomes, in truth, the final plan.

D. It is hoped to get the study under way in September of this year under the USPHS.

E. The estimate is one year for the study and six months for completion of the report, or 18 months from September 1952 when the final story becomes available.

J. P. Woodard

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QUESTIONS DISCUSSED AT MEETING IN
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, LOS ANGELES
May 7, 1952

Draft I for Study Plan, Diatomaceous Earth

A. What is the present pneumoconiosis problem in the diatomaceous earth industry?

1. What are the various degrees of pneumoconiosis and their prevalence in the industry?

2. Is the pneumoconiosis thus produced typical of the silicosis produced in other industrial free silica exposures?

B. Is there a correlation between certain occupations within the industry and the extent of positive (or negative) findings?

C. Is calcined (or calcined-fluxed) diatomaceous earth the etiological agent, or is raw diatomaceous earth also involved? (Also relative toxicity of fresh and salt water earth.)

D. What crystalline forms of silica are present in raw and calcined diatomaceous earth? How much is present? In the mining of diatomaceous earth, are crystalline forms of silica frequently encountered, i.e., are crystalline silica dikes or cleavages frequently encountered which must be removed to reach the diatomaceous earth deposit?

1. Is the etiological agent of diatomaceous earth pneumoconiosis actually diatomaceous earth, or is the agent some other mineral dust?

E. Has the industry followed what is generally considered as good dust control procedures in mining and milling?

F. Are present methods of control sufficiently sound to prevent the development and progression of pneumoconiosis?

(G. Relationship to tuberculosis or other respiratory disease.)

The following is an outline of a proposed study of the diatomaceous earth industry:

I. Purpose of Study

A. To settle the discussion as to whether diatomaceous earth is or is not a pneumoconiosis producer.

B. To study the health of workers in the mining and milling of diatomaceous earth, with special emphasis on the extent of pneumoconiosis.

C. To correlate medical with environmental findings in order to determine maximum permissible concentrations and needed control measures in the industry.

II. Medical Studies

A. Medical examination.

1. Chest x-ray - 14" x 17" - of all workers in the production of diatomaceous earth.

2. Other medical studies - complete physical and clinical examination of all production workers.

3. X-ray survey of community residents.

a. Detection of pneumoconiosis.
b. Detection of tuberculosis.

B. Study of Records.

1. Medical records through official and private agencies.

2. Compensation records in states where available.

III. Environmental Studies

A. Dust studies.

1. Concentration at various operations.

2. Total silica and free silica content.

3. Particle size.

4. Other mineral dusts involved.

B. Ventilation studies.

1. Underground requirements vs. supply.

2. Local exhaust ventilation vs. dust conditions (surface workings).

3. Special ventilation for other controls.

4. Dust control for milling operations (machine and local exhaust ventilation).

C. Other environmental studies as determined.

D. Correlation of environmental data with medical findings.

E. Air pollution studies in surrounding communities.

Footnote: Words and phrases in ( ) on first page were added.