Minutes
Policy Committee Meeting
Environmental Health Task Force
December 17, 1968

Fact Finding Trips

Dr. Wright reported briefly on trips he and Ivan Sabourin had recently completed to Europe and Africa. He intends to report in more detail at a later meeting.

Asbestos Fibre Distribution

Dr. Wright suggested we begin a study to determine where various types of asbestos fibre have gone over the past 35 years in terms of product end usage. Is public exposure greater because of the tremendous increase in production?

Insulation Industry Hygiene Research Program

1. Burt Jobe reported visits to job site locations are under way. Upon completion, we will put together a work practices code booklet. The group intends making a movie showing both bad work practices and the safe method of working. Big educational job ahead to get contractors and union to enforce discipline on preventive measures.

2. Progress reported on the development of a waterproof bag for mixing asbestos on job sites.

3. First issue of the Newsletter on the IIHRP ready to go to press. Distribution of costs will be discussed at the Advisory Council meeting on January 21, 1969.

Fiber Glass Research

Burt Jobe suggested the possibility of our supporting, through N.I.M.A., the current research work on fiber glass being done on the West Coast by Dr. Cooper's group.

Press Relations

Jack Solon reported on current publicity in newspapers, magazines and on television. He expressed the need to work with Dr. Selikoff to get positive articles on asbestos health in such mass-circulation magazines as BUSINESS WEEK. C.B. Burnett mentioned READERS DIGEST as a good vehicle. Sabourin and Solon will collaborate on the approach to Dr. Selikoff.

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(Prepared by J. J. Solon)

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Contact Team

Jack Solon pointed up the need for a contact team on asbestos/health, always ready to move into the field for personal contact with such people as Mr. Goldberg of the Department of Public Works, San Francisco, and the Inland Division, General Motors. Dr. Wright agreed to talk with any group provided a medical man was present.

Meeting - Food & Drug Administration

Bus Smith and Jack Solon reported on subject meeting recently held in Washington attended by Dr. Selikoff and Fred Pundsack. Though the original agenda had concerned filtration through asbestos fibre, the meeting itself developed into a discussion of asbestos worker health problems. Filtration was barely mentioned at the end of the meeting.

Somerset Hospital Visit

Dr. Wright agreed to meet with Somerset Hospital doctors at the earliest opportunity for an asbestos/health discussion.

Caution Label on Asbestos Bags

Jack Solon presented the adverse reaction in the U.K. to caution labeling of J-M asbestos bags on overseas shipments. It was agreed we would use a caution lable only on domestic shipments (U.S. and Canada). For overseas customers we'll prepare a leaflet pointing up good practices in handling fibre. C.B. Burnett suggested this be sent annually by registered mail to managements of overseas customers. He also asked that Herb Ball check into rules on warning labels in various overseas countries.

Cautioning by U.K.

North American Asbestos Information Committee

Jack Solon expressed the increasing need for this committee. Following brief discussion, no decision was reached.

Plant Exchange Visits - Raybestos-Manhattan

Jack Solon relayed the request from Raybestos-Manhattan that we visit each other's asbestos plants to study environmental control methods. C.B. Burnett agreed and Solon is to proceed to arrange.

Change in Meeting Schedules

Bus Smith suggested that Policy Committee and Sub-committee meetings be held in alternate months -- on the Tuesday before the third Wednesday. All agreed.

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Upcoming Medical Meetings

Participation in various of these meetings, including that in April 1969 in Johannesburg, was discussed.

Releasing Health Records

Recent publicity involving the doctors at Somerset Hospital in which they requested that we release Manville Plant health records to them brought about considerable discussion. A.B. Marchant will tell John Anderson not to honor any such request until he has checked with Industrial Relations.

F.J. SOLON, JR.

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