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MINUTES OF A MEETING ON ASBESTOS DUST HAZARD IN MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

Meeting held in Mr. Seigle's office, December 29, 1933.

The following were present at the meeting:

Mr. S. Simpson, Mr. M. F. Judd } Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

Mr. E. M. Voorhees, Mr. W. R. Seigle, Mr. S. A. Williams, Mr. Vandiver Brown } Johns-Manville Corp.

Mr. Voorhees stated Johns-Manville's situation as follows.

Our policy has been, to provide the best means possible that we know of, with respect to eliminating dust hazards in our manufacturing operations.

Our future policy with respect to this matter is, briefly, to have the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company undertake a check-up of the dust conditions in our various departments, and thus obtain their opinion on the present efficiency of our dust collecting systems; and to back this up ourselves by training one or two individuals within our own organization, with the help of Dr. Lanza, in making dust counts, so that periodically in the future we can find out exactly what the conditions are within our factories. On top of this we anticipate having the most able engineer or engineering firm to check the actual efficiency of the dust collecting system which we have in effect and to make recommendations with respect to the improvement thereof.

From the viewpoint of the industry with respect to this matter it is our opinion that, rather than make it a Code matter or an Industry matter, the problem be handled on the basis of personal contacts with the individual manufacturers of asbestos products, giving them the opportunity to come into a standardized operation and split the cost on the basis of the work performed for each individual manufacturer. In our contact with Dr. Lanza we find that he is very willing to perform these operations of checking the dust conditions and giving us his advice, on a very, very favorable arrangement, which means that we are practically to pay only the out-of-pocket expenses in connection with their representatives.

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Up to the present time we have dicussed this matter with only Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. We haven't discussed it with anybody else. Mr. Dewey has asked us for information, and we have asked him to come to New York and talk the matter over. We took this position purely from the standpoint that we didn't want to discuss the problem except with those who are directly interested in the combined situation and those who are willing to pay for the information developed. Each company would pay its own expenses in connection with the surveys made by Dr. Lanze. However, in connection with the expert, the proportion of that expense which each company will split will be decided later.

———OoO———

After a general discussion of the entire problem, it was decided that Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. and Johns-Manville Corporation would together avail themselves of the opportunity of having the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company bring up to date the survey with respect to dust conditions in their respective factories. For the purposes of accomplishing this and obtaining the maximum results, a co-ordinating committee consisting of the following gentlemen would be formed:

Mr. O.H. Gilley, Plant Manager of the Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. plant at Manheim, Pa.

Mr. J. Heinsohn, Plant Manager of the Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. plant at Charleston, S.C.

Mr. S.A. Williams, Vice-President in Charge of Factories and Mines of Johns-Manville Corporation.

Mr. Vandiver Brown, of the Legal Department of Johns-Manville Corporation.

It was decided not to appoint a chairman of this committee, but Mr. Vandiver Brown was appointed secretary and it will be his duty to arrange the various meetings of the committee.

The policy of the two companies concerned is that they desire through the operation of this committee and the resulting investigations to obtain, each for itself, the best practice possible for the elimination of dust and the protection of employees.

It was decided that this committee would contact Dr. Lanze, arrange for the work to be started, and obtain Dr. Lanze's recommendation with respect to locating or developing an expert whose services might best be utilized from the standpoint of court work in connection with dust elimination.

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It was thought desirable that the two respective companies proceed with this work, as soon as practicable, before approaching other members of the industry, and that at this time the third company to be approached would probably be the Multibestos Company.

With respect to publicity. While it may be desirable because of changing conditions to publish the first report of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., our past policy of keeping this matter confidential is to be pursued and the question of publicity deferred until such time as the second report is available for our analysis.

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Mr. Vandiver Brown arranged with Dr. Lanza this morning to hold a meeting on Thursday, January 4th, 1934, at 2.30 P.M. in the offices of Johns-Manville Corporation, 22 East 40th Street, New York City, and in addition to Dr. Lanza and the above-named committee, it was understood that the secretary would ask Mr. A. R. Fisher and Mr. D. C. Benton, from Manville, N. J. to attend the meeting.

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Pursuant to the procedure outlined at the meeting held in Mr. Seigle's office on December 29, 1933 a meeting of the Raybestos - Johns-Manville Committee for coordinating and standardizing ways and means of eliminating dust and protecting the health of employees engaged in manufacturing operations was held in the office of Mr. S. A. Williams at 2:00 o'clock on Thursday, the 4th day of January, 1934.

The following were present at the meeting:

Dr. A. J. Lanza of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

Mr. M. F. Judd	Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
Mr. A. F. Heinsohn	
Mr. O. H. Gilley	
Mr. George Pope	
Mr. B. W. Luttenberger	
Mr. S. A. Williams	Johns-Manville Corporation.
Mr. A. R. Fisher	
Mr. Vandiver Brown	

Dr. Lanza was advised of the decision of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. and Johns-Manville Corporation to cooperate in the devising of ways and means of reducing or eliminating dust in various manufacturing operations common to both Corporations and for the protection of the health of the employees engaged in such operations. He was advised that both Corporations had agreed to avail themselves of the generous assistance offered by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in solving their problems and had agreed, as an initial step in the program, to permit Metropolitan to complete the investigation and survey instituted by them in 1929. Dr. Lanza was also advised that the present program contemplated not only the completion of this survey but its extension to cover all of the various plants of the two Companies which comprised certain plants that had not been covered by the earlier survey.

Dr. Lanza stated that the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company would be in a position to commence the contemplated work some time after the first of March. Prior to that time both Companies should provide Dr. Lanza with the following information:

(1) The names and locations of the various plants that the Companies desire to have examined.

(2) The name of the person or persons at each plant with whom the Metropolitan representative should deal in making arrangements for the survey.

(3) Detailed instructions as to the best means for reaching plants.

(4) The type of electric current available at the plants - (a) Whether alternating or direct current (b) number of cycles and (c) voltage.

(5) Whether or not compressed air is available at the plant.

(6) Size of plant, that is, (a) the number of employees to be examined and (b) the approximate amount of floor space

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involved in operations where dustry conditions might be encountered.

The meeting was advised by Dr. Lanza that the Corporations would be expected to pay or to reimburse Metropolitan for the following incidental expenses:

(1) Cost of transportation of the Metropolitan employees engaged upon the work and of their equipment.

(2) The subsistence of the employees in the field.

(3) The cost of the X-ray films (Dr. Lanza indicated that he might be able to obtain wholesale rates for us on this item and that in any event the cost would probably be less than a dollar per film.

Dr. Lanza stated that he was not certain at this time as to whether the manufacturers of X-ray machines could provide them with portable equipment that would be satisfactory for the taking of the pictures required for this survey. If it should develop that no satisfactory portable machine were available, it would be necessary either (a) that the Companies provide satisfactory equipment of their own at each plant location or (b) arrange to have the X-rays taken by suitable privately owned equipment in nearby towns. In any event it was essential that the same technique be used in making the X-rays and he thought it desirable that if possible all of the work be performed by Metropolitan employees although he realized that this would probably be impossible in all cases unless portable equipment were to be used.

Both Corporations believe it desirable that certain of their employees be trained in the technique of making dust counts. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company will train employees designated by us in this technique. The training can be done here in New York and can be accomplished in from two to five weeks' time.

Mr. Williams indicated that Johns-Manville Corporation would like to have three men trained in this technique, one to be located at Manville, one at Waukegon and one on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Judd of Raybestos-Manhattan stated that they would desire to have two of their employees so trained. After Mr. Williams and Dr. Lanza had left the meeting Mr. Fisher suggested that it would be highly desirable to have our Manville representative trained immediately in order that they might ascertain as quickly as possible the efficiency of the equipment that has been installed by Johns-Manville during the past few years at considerable expense in the Manville factory for the purpose of ascertaining if this type of equipment should be employed at other plants of Johns-Manville Corporation or of Raybestos.

In this connection Dr. Lanza pointed out that there was still a good deal to be learned on the subject of asbestos dust including not only the harmful effects, if any, upon workers exposed to it but also as to the point at which the quantity of dust in the air became dangerous.

The meeting discussed at considerable length the advisability of engaging the services of a dust engineer to make specific recommendations as to the best means of eliminating or reducing the dust at those places where the dust

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count should reveal its presence in quantities likely to be hazardous. Dr. Lanza pointed out that his survey would indicate with a fair degree of accuracy the spots where the dust should be reduced and that certain Metropolitan representatives could specify the type of equipment that should be used although none of them could qualify as dust engineers to the extent of being able to advise how the equipment should be constructed to meet the varying conditions which would be encountered. Mr. Fisher pointed out that it was quite likely that no individuals could be found who would know more on the particular subject of dust elimination or dust reduction under the conditions encountered in the asbestos industry than those employees of Johns-Manville and Raybestos who had, through a process of trial and error, devised certain equipment now being used and whichit was thought was successfully coping with the problem. Moreover, these same individuals were from day to day becoming more and more qualified. The meeting was advised, however, as to the relatively better position inwhich the Companie would be placed in the event of litigation if they could avail themselves of the testimony of an outside expert of recognized reputation who would state that he had made certain recommendations that he considered best for the particular problem and that these recommendations had been followed. Dr. Lanza was not certain if there was anyone who could satisfactorily fill these qualifications but stated that he would interview a Dr. Phil Drinker of Harvard in the very near future and would present the prosition to him and see if he were qualfied and available. It was felt that this point was probably not of excessive importance inasmuch as the testimony either of an outside expert or of a trained expert on our regular payroll could be attacked as having been paid for by the Company.

Dr. Lanza pointed out that the Metropolitan Representatives were as well qualified as any to advise the Companies as to the type of respirators to be provided employees engaged in dusty operations inasmuch as the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company had been making a study of this problem.

Dr. Lanza brought out that the earlier survey made by the Metropolitan had included one company in the United States besides Johns-Manville and Raybestos, namely, Thermoid. He desired to know if it would be satisfactory to seek the co-operation of this company in completing the Metropolitan survey. It was the consensus of opinion that there was probably no objection to the completion by Metropolitan of its survey in so far as it related to the Thermoid plants but that it would be desirable to, pospone any such action until after he had completed the contemplated survey of Raybestos and Johns-Manville. By that date it was considered at least possible that Thermoid would have joined with Raybestos and Johns-Manville in broadening the scope of the survey. Dr. Lanza will bring up this question again after completion of the survey for Raybestos and Johns-Manville.

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