GENERAL ASBESTOS & RUBBER DIVISION

of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

Asbestos Products

North Charleston, S.C. October 27, 1936

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Sumner Simpson, President,
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,
Bridgeport, Conn.

Subj: STUDY OF DUST CONDITIONS AT THE PLANT OF THE GENERAL ASBESTOS & RUBBER DIVISION

Dear Mr. Simpson:-

I wish to make a report to you, as follows:

This morning, at about 9:00 o'clock, a Dr. E. Y. Wilson, a representative of the South Carolina State Board of Health, called at this office and stated that he was making this visit at the request of Dr. J. A. Hayne, who is the Health Officer for the State of South Carolina.

The object of this visit was for the purpose of finding out if we would grant permission to the South Carolina State Board of Health to make an inspection & study of dust conditions at this plant. I spent quite a while in conversation with this gentleman and found out that this request was brought about by the U. S. Department of Health wishing to make a survey of an Asbestos plant, this it was considered, had been brought up to the best possible conditions at the present time. However, it seems that the law is such that the U.S.Department of Health can not send men into any State without first getting the permission of the State Health Department, and then the State Health Department has to ob tain permission from the owners of the plant.

Dr. Wilson advised me that this inspection would be made by representatives of the United States Department of Health cooperating with representatives of the South Carolina State Board of Health.

Sometime ago, I advised you that I had met Dr. Sayre, an Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, who is the head of the United States Department of Health, and this Dr. Wilson stated that he had been in New York and discussed this matter with Dr. Lanza and Dr. McConnell of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., and that when the question came up as to some plant which they could study under the best conditions, Dr. Wilson advised that Dr.McConnell stated to him: "If you desire to see the model plant in the United States, you should try to get permission to examine the plant of the General Asbestos & Rubber Division at North Charleston, South Carolina."

I next questioned Dr. Wilson as to what was the nature of the study they desired to make. He advised as follows:

1. They first wished to inspect the general conditions in the plant.
2. They desired to make dust counts in the various departments.
3. They desired to X-ray each and everyone of the employees.

2200-0456
2250-0427
5800-7194

EXH 0090 2435

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11818/1

Mr. Simpson — Subj: Study of Dust Conditions at plant of General Asb.& Rub.Co. — 10/27/36

I next asked Dr. Wilson if the State of South Carolina had the necessary equipment for making such a study. Dr. Wilson advised me that the State of South Carolina had the necessary equipment for making the dust counts but that the United States Department of Health would furnish the technicians to undertake this work; also, that the United States Department of Health had the necessary equipment for making X-rays, and that they would bring such equipment to this plant, and that they would handle the work in cooperation with the South Carolina State Board of Health. This Dr. Wilson appeared to be a very pleasant gentleman and seemed to be very much interested and desirous of making this study, and I stated to him that as far as I, personally was concerned, I was very anxious to see the State take an interest in this matter and that I would write you, recommending that you grant permission; however, that I could not extend this permission to them without your consent.

The next point I asked Dr. Wilson was that if you granted permission for such a study and examination of the plant, if we would be furnished with a copy of the report. He stated that we would.

I next asked him if and when we were bothered with damage suits, if they would testify for us. He stated that the law would not permit them to testify for either a plaintiff or defendant. I said: "that might be the case but I am not asking you to testify for the defendant but asking you if you will testify as to the conditions you found in this plant when you made this examination". He said, "certainly we will be permitted to give testimony as to conditions which we found."

I am submitting all of the above to you and trust that you will see fit to grant this request, which is being made by the South Carolina State Board of Health.

I might further advise that immediately after this gentleman left the office I 'phoned Dr. Mitchell and told him as to this visit of Dr. Wilson's and he stated that he would like to discuss this matter with me. I am therefore giving a copy of this letter to Dr. Mitchell and I will request him to write you as to his opinion. As far as I am concerned, I am not afraid of anyone coming in this plant at the present time and making an inspection, and to the best of my recollection, some short while ago, I think you made a suggestion that we request members of the Medical profession to come up to the plant and that we serve them a lunch in the Card Room.

I trust you will give this matter your immediate attention, for Dr. Wilson has requested that I advise him as to your decision as soon as possible.

Yours very respectfully,

L. H. Jeffords, General Manager
Cleonaes Plant #2 the United States
Now being designated as a Model Plant

LHJ:MeK

P.S. When reading this over I noticed there was one important point I fail to mention, and that is, Dr. Wilson stated that if this permission is granted, they will make an inspection and study of the plant sometime next spring.

GP 100

EXH 0090 2436

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11818/2