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INDUSTRIAL HEALTH FOUNDATION, INC.
A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTHFUL WORKING CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY
5231 CENTRE AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15232 • (412) 687-2100
ESTABLISHED 1935

FINAL REPORT

TO

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
Sistersville, West Virginia

ON

VALIDATION OF THE COHORT FOR THE EPIDEMIOLOGY STUDY OF SILANES WORKERS

By

Daniel C. Braun, M.D.
President

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
UC 4188

October 27, 1981

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INTRODUCTION

The effort to validate the original cohort was justified by the fact that the calculated SMR's in the Epidemiology Study of Silanes Workers were so low. It was felt necessary to be doubly certain that the cohort followed in the study was, in all respects, complete and accurate.

Although work records had been carefully reviewed originally, microfilms were furnished from dead storage by the company, and these were read in detail to confirm the earlier information. Occasional missing items such as birthdates, social security numbers, and specific job titles were found by this means.

A list of Social Security Numbers of accounts on which the Sistersville Plant had made payments during the years 1956 through 1975 was obtained from the Social Security Administration. These numbers were then first carefully compared with those of persons in the cohort. This comparison shows that only one person may have qualified for the cohort who was not actually included, but employment records were not available for this person. The comparison also verified that the persons in the cohort had all been properly included.

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RESULTS

In checking the original cohort list against the Social Security lists, it was found that nine members of the cohort were not on the Social Security rolls, possibly because they were on either the exempt or the non-exempt payroll. However, these persons were considered to have had enough exposure, according to employment records, to be included in the original study. Seventeen were on the Social Security records, but not for 20 quarters, however, work records did confirm five years of service in "exposed" jobs.

It will be recalled that the final report on the Union Carbide portion of the study mentioned 35 persons whose work records could not be located, and that, although hire- and termination-dates indicate that their exposure was less than five years, this had not been definitely confirmed by us.

Of these 35 persons, employment of four in "exempt" positions at the Sistersville Plant was verified by Mr. Donald Voisinet (he also confirmed that at least two of them were still alive in June, 1980). Based on this information, these four persons were considered to be properly excluded from the original cohort. Eighteen persons had less than one year of service, while 13 persons were employed for more than one year, but less than five years, which excluded them from the original study. Thus, all 35 persons unaccounted for in the original study have been accounted for in the validation.

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DEATHS

After the study had been reported, but before the validation of the cohort was begun, Dr. Susan Austin, Epidemiologist, for Union Carbide Corporation, supplied a list dated April 14, 1980 of all deaths known to her as having occurred among former employees of the plant at Sistersville. She expressed some concern that of the 32 deaths on her list, only nine were accounted for in the study. The remaining 23 deaths have been carefully reviewed, and it was found that nine occurred after the end of the study period, four had had less than five years of employment, two had been hired after the study period, six had been considered not to have work in exposed occupations, and two did not appear on the employment lists furnished us. There was one malignancy among these 23 deaths and it appears to have been a cancer of the lung.

SUMMARY

The net effect of the validation effort on the results reported originally is that the cohort might have been 376 instead of 375. Verified deaths remain at nine, and the SMR would not be significantly changed.

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