CARBIDE CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS GROUP

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UC-4293

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M. J Teta

What do you make of this?
Please return

HCL

1/30/86

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IRSST
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en santé et en sécurité
du travail du Québec

23 Jan 85

Hilton Lewinsohn

I have sent this letter to Re
John -

Best regards

Alison McDonald

AU2018

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FOR PUBLICATION

Teta MJ, Lewinsohn HC, Meigs JW, Vidone RA, Mowad LZ, Flannery JT: Mesothelioma in Connecticut, 1955-77. Occupational and geographic associations. Journal of Occupational Medicine 1983, 25: 749-755

To the Editor:

My colleagues and I would like to put on record some additional information about three cases of mesothelioma described in this report in persons who were stated to have worked in a Connecticut asbestos friction products factory. Important inferences have been and may be drawn from this report which are incorrect.

We have studied the mortality to 1978 of cohorts of men and women who were employed for one month or more, 1938-58 in this plant which manufactured friction products from chrysotile only. Of the male cohort of 3641, 3513 (95.5%) were traced 1267 had died and death certificates were obtained for 1228 (96.9%)(1). The females numbered 931, 848 (91.1%) were traced and for the 122 who had died death certificates were obtained(2). There were no deaths from mesothelioma in men or women.

Of the three cases reported by Teta et al, one, a man, worked in another plant - a small asbestos textile factory -from 1921 to 1932. He was also employed in electrical work from 1937-40 and was not a member of our cohort. I am indebted to Ms Teta for his occupational history. He did not ever work in the friction products plant which we studied.

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Both cases in women were clerical workers and were members of our cohort. However, neither of the two was certified at death as a malignant mesothelioma, but both were recorded as such in the Connecticut Tumor Registry, perhaps because they had worked at an asbestos factory. One woman died in 1971 at age 69 years and was certified as carcinomatosis, primary site unknown (no autopsy). The reviewing pathologist who was not informed of the occupational history subsequently made a diagnosis of "probable mesothelioma". The second woman died in 1975, at age 76 and the cause of death was certified, following an autopsy, as carcinomatosis with the additional mention on the certificate of primary pancreatic carcinoma. Nevertheless slide review "confirmed a diagnosis of peritoneal mesothelioma."

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1. McDonald AD, Fry JS, Woolley AJ, McDonald JC. Dust exposure and mortality in an American chrysotile asbestos friction products plant. Br J Ind Med 1984; 4: 151-157

2. McDonald JC, McDonald AD, Fry JS, Woolley AJ, Liddell FDK, Mortality in four cohorts of female asbestos factory workers. Br J Ind Med in press

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