FILE NAME: Pecora Chemical (PEC)

DATE: 1964 July 23

DOC#: PEC002

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Inspection Survey Results with Cover Letter

23 July 1964

Pecora, Incorporated
300 West Sedgley Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attention: Mr. Raymond Dronsfield
Plant Engineer

Gentlemen:

A survey was conducted in your plant to evaluate employees' exposure to asbestos dust. Because of our findings, the following recommendations are made.

1. Continue the program of requiring employees to wear approved-type respirators whenever engaged in mixing operations.

2. Continue the program of providing annual chest X-ray examinations for all employees exposed to dust.

A copy of the survey report, our booklet entitled "Dust", our Hygienic Information Guide entitled "Asbestos" and Article 432, as amended, are enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Jan Lieben, M. D., Director
Division of Occupational Health

Enclosures (4)
JL:MB:cmm

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Department of Health
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Report of Survey

Pecora, Incorporated
300 West Sedgley Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Following a plant inspection, a survey was conducted on 24 June 1964 to evaluate employees' exposure to asbestos dust. Arrangements for the survey were made with Mr. Raymond Dronsfield, plant engineer.

DETAILED FINDINGS

This plant is engaged in the manufacture of adhesives. Asbestos is blended in batch mixers with various fillers and vehicles and packed in cans and drums.

The batch mixers are equipped with local exhaust ventilating systems. When charging the mixers, the operators are required to wear respirators approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines for protection against pneumoconiosis-producing dusts. The operators spend approximately two hours a day at the mixing operation. The balance of the workday is spent performing duties not involving the use of asbestos.

Atmospheric samples were collected at the operator's breathing level and in the general work area with midget impingers using ethyl alcohol as the collecting medium. Dust counts were made microscopically using a standardized light-field technique, and the results given in the attached Table.

The threshold limit value for asbestos-containing dust is 5 million particles per cubic foot of air (m. p. p. c. f.), based on an eight-hour workday. Dust concentrations ranged from 1.4 to 4.1 m. p. p. c. f. with an average of 2.5 m. p. p. c. f.

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To keep dust exposures at a minimum, the practices of exhausting Ventilating the batch mixers and requiring employees to wear approved-type respirators when charging the mixers should be continued.

It should also be emphasized that cases of lung disease have occurred among workers exposed to low dust concentrations. The program of giving annual chest X-ray examinations to all employees engaged in dusty operations should also be continued.

A Table of dust concentrations follows.

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Table — Dust Concentrations

Location	Dust * (millions of particles per cubic foot of air)	Remarks
Mixing Room	1.4	General air before batch mixing
	4.1 3.5 2.2	Operator's breathing level during charging
	3.6 1.9 1.8	General air during mixing
	1.6	General air 5 minutes after mixing

* Threshold limit value for asbestos-containing dust - 5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

Survey by -

Maurice Bordoni
Industrial Hygienist

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