

Medical Department
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Medical Director

11 August 1980

Mr. D.H. Soutar,
New York Office.

Re: LAQ - Statistical Data on Thetford Mine Employees.

During my recent visit (April) to this Canadian facility, I reviewed with Dr. Lambert some statistical studies which he had done on employees who attend the Institute of Industrial Medicine at Thetford for medical appraisal.

Four major companies use the services of this Institute, namely the Asbestos Society, Ltd., Bell Ltd., Carey of Canada and LAQ. The following data refers to the hearing conservation program:-

<u>Measurement:</u>	<u>Total # Tested</u>	<u>Black Lake</u>	<u>National</u>
<u>HEARING:-</u>	3588	786	337
% Normal Hearing	80.4	83.3	88.7
% Minor Loss in one ear:	6.9	6.3	5.9
% Important loss in one ear:	1.6	1.5	0.6
% Minimal loss in one ear:	5.3	3.8	2.1
% Significant loss in both ears:	5.8	5.1	2.7
<u>PULMONARY FUNCTION:-</u>	1352	373	
% Normal	73.4	76.4	
% Obstructive lung disease:	19.0	17.4	

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	<u>Total #</u>	<u>Black Lake</u>	<u>National</u>
PULMONARY FUNCTION (continued)			
% Restrictive lung disease:	5.2	4.3	
% Combined:	2.3	1.9	

SMOKING HISTORY:-

# Questioned:	1352	373	
% Smokers:	51.6	48.5	
% Former Smokers:	28.1	29.7	
% Incomplete Data:	0.3	0.5	

X-RAY (LUNG):-

# Miners Examined:	734	328	
% Normal X-Rays:	95.8	97.0	
% Abnormal X-Rays:	4.2	3.0	

These data are important when considering total disability payments since there will eventually be some settlements for hearing loss and pulmonary dysfunction as a result of asbestosis. The current disability program is very liberal in Quebec insofar as awards are concerned. If a person is judged to have asbestosis with functional limitations, and if there is no position open for him at his plant, he is given total lifetime disability. It is my understanding that no such award was made for LAQ during the past year.

The overall data are favorable in that there are very few cases which have x-ray evidence supportive of pulmonary changes, although there are some functional changes. These

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of course would not all be related to asbestos exposure,
since there are 48.5% smokers and 29.7% former smokers
in the population studied.

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CC: KWNelson
MJMessel
RJBoehm