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cc: Dr. Joseph L. Richmond
Plant Manager
Chambers Works

November 24, 1965

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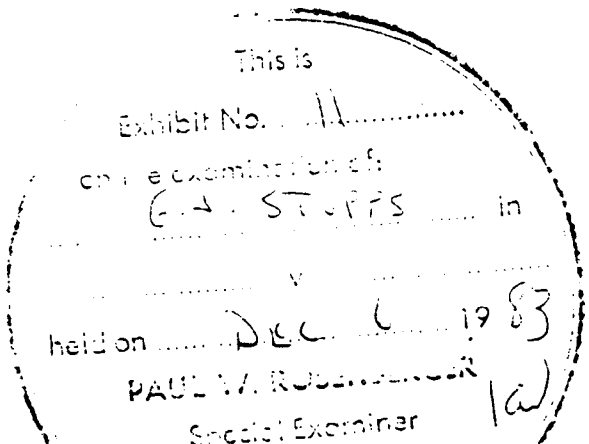
W. GARRETT HUME, 2ND, M.D.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
CHAMBERS WORKS

As you know there has been considerable interest during the last few years in the effects of asbestos on persons handling either the raw material or products derived from it. The cause for concern is largely centered around the incidence of cancer in workers with asbestos and the very long "incubation" period which may intervene between the initial exposure to asbestos and the development of cancer. As with many such relationships the question of whether asbestos fiber causes cancer is bedeviled by a number of apparently contradictory findings, but it seems clear that in certain circumstances exposure to asbestos fibers is accompanied by an increased mortality from cancer of the lung, pleura and gastrointestinal tract.

Since the Du Pont Company uses a considerable amount of asbestos, largely in the form of pipe insulation, it is of some importance to examine the medical records of men engaged in trades handling asbestos to see whether there is any cause for concern about their health.

I propose to examine the health records of the pipe coverers and compare them with a control group who are not known to have had an exposure to asbestos. This study will only be concerned with existing medical records and no contact with the men will be required.

I shall, of course, keep you informed as to the progress of our study.




ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
G. J. STOPPS

G. J. Stopps, M.B.,B.S.
Chief, Physiology Section

GJS/dyb