

JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

January 11, 1948

Dr. Arthur J. Vorwald
The Saranac Laboratory
Saranac Lake, New York



Dear Dr. Vorwald:

Mr. Dominic Bertogliat, who had been with Johns-Manville for more than twenty-one years and who was one of the superintendents at our Waukegan, Illinois, plant, left the Company on October 31, 1947, after a rather long period of poor health. He went up into Wisconsin to help his father-in-law run a store, and died on December 23.

His wife wrote a letter to our Waukegan plant under date of December 29, in which she said that a post-mortem examination performed at the Mesaba Clinic in Hibbing, Minnesota, revealed that the cause of death was "of an occupational nature, specifically asbestos infiltration." A copy of her letter is attached.

Mr. Bertogliat was examined by our local plant physician on several occasions, as well as by other doctors. One such examination was by Dr. Ernest E. Irons, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 3, and I am sending you attached a copy of his letter of January 9, 1948, to Dr. C. F. Tenney, of New York.

Mr. Jackson and I discussed this subject yesterday with Dr. Lanza, who feels, as we do, that this should be referred to you. Dr. Lanza feels that you will be interested in it.

Our Waukegan plant is sending to us X-rays and full data on past examinations. Mr. Jackson will be in touch with you and will send you this information as soon as it reaches us.

Dr. S. L. Keller, our plant physician at Waukegan, is to get in touch with the Hibbing Clinic in connection with specimens and data that may be obtained from them. You may wish to write to Dr. Keller, c/o of Johns-Manville Products Corporation, Waukegan, Illinois, in connection with this case. If you do so, will you please send a copy of your letter to us here and to Mr. C. R. Wikel, plant manager at Waukegan.

I know that you will require data of previous physical examinations and information on Mr. Bertogliat's work record with us, and I am sure that Mr. Jackson will supply you with this information.

This man was a valued employee and that is the reason for seeing that he had a number of examinations by leading men in the medical field. Information which resulted from those examinations showed no indication of an occupational disease and we are, frankly, shocked and amazed to receive the information on the findings of the Hibbing Clinic.

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If when you have received all the information from us you would like any additional data, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,


J. P. Woodward

Enclosures

Copy to: Dr. A. J. Lanza, Metropolitan
Mr. Vandiver Brown
Mr. H. M. Jackson