

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP

MURRAY HILL, NJ
December 14, 1982

DRAFT

In Attendance:

G. P. Bisgeier, M. D. - N. J. Bell, Medical
J. M. Degen (Secretary) - AT&T, Human Resources
K. E. DeGennaro - WECo, Environmental Engineering
J. P. Dunn, M. D. - AT&T, Medical
M. J. Hanley, M. D. - BTL, Medical and Environmental Health
J. E. Reese (Co-Chairman) - AT&T, Human Resources
R. W. Stone, M. D. (Co-Chairman) - AT&T, Medical
G. M. Wilkening - BTL, Environmental Health and Safety

ABSENT:

A. G. Bickelman, M.D.
T. G. Krebs
C. M. West
J. W. Williamson

GUESTS:

O. C. Amrhyn - AT&T (representing Mr. Krebs)
W. J. Avers - WECo
D. Camisole, M.D. - Rutgers University
M. L. Comstock, M.D. - BTL
M. M. Condie - AT&T
J. P. Mc Manus - AT&T (representing Mr. West)
C. H. Mills - AT&T
W. J. Schreibeis - BTL
M. M. Weiss - BTL
F. X. Worden - WECo

FUTURE MEETING:

Basking Ridge, NJ March 15, 1983 9:30 a.m.

OSHA ASBESTOS STANDARD

The subject of medical surveillance requirements under the present OSHA Standard continues to generate questions, particularly with regard to employees who have had past exposures, either documented or presumed. Mr. Mills commented that while the Standard does not explicitly address the issue of past exposures, OSHA would most probably take the position that surveillance should be continued for those employees. If a particular case should reach the appeals court level, an employer that refused to continue surveillance would probably not fare well. The best advice at the present time would be to essentially do what the Standard says: offer continued surveillance.

Dr. Dunn and Mr. Degen reported on the asbestos-related issues discussed at the November meeting of Organization Resources Counselors (ORC). The member companies are becoming increasingly concerned about the coming changes to both state and federal compensation laws in the area of occupational diseases with long latency periods. Present laws tend to prevent the ligitimate victims from collecting benefits. In their zeal to correct the current deficiencies, many legislators may tend to tip the balance in the other direction. It is expected that some form of asbestos compensation act similar to the Miller Bill will pass through Congress in 1983.

Mr. Degen is participating on an ORC Task Force that is writing a completely new asbestos standard. It is the intention of the task force to deliver a complete new standard to OSHA by the end of the first quarter of 1983. Hopefully, this will help enable OSHA to publish a sensible proposed standard before any change of administration.

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