

FILE NAME: General Electric (GE)

DATE: 1932 Jan 12

DOC#: GE117

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Mr. Cameron from Mr. C-E.A. Winslow RE
Meeting of the Committee on Sandblasting



310 Cedar St.,
New Haven, Conn.,
January 12, 1932

My dear Mr. Cameron:

Dr. Sappington will no doubt have told you how well the meeting of the Committee on Sandblasting went yesterday. There was the finest kind of cooperative spirit and with certain important changes the report seems to meet with practically unanimous approval. We thought it wise to arrange for another meeting in February but I see no reason to doubt that the report will then be adopted.

Dr. Sappington will tell you that we voted to ask that the name of the committee should be changed to "Committee on Health Protection in Air-Pressure Abrasive-Cleaning."

There seem to be only two possible lines of opposition to the report.

The people who are interested in mineral abrasives objected to the definite recommendation of the preference for metallic abrasives, and this we have changed in the new draft so they can have no really legitimate ground for criticism. They are to be given an opportunity to submit suggestions in writing before the final meeting.

The second objection exemplified in the enclosed letter from Mr. Falk concerns the application of our conclusions to general foundry practice. This also we have tried to forestall by inserting a specific statement





-2-

that we have studied air pressure blasting alone and that our conclusions can not be applied to other industrial processes.

We have thus I think met the only two logical objections to our report. I do not for a moment believe, however, that either the abrasive people or Mr. Falk will be entirely appeased. What they are afraid of is that any mention of the fact that there is a hazard in sandblasting will stir up legislation and litigation and like the ostrich they want to hide their heads in the sand and pretend that nothing is going on. In the new draft of the report it is made perfectly clear that we are simply reporting the results of an engineering investigation concerned with the dust content of air in workshops employing pressure blasting and our results show that any abrasive can be used in any process with safety provided certain simple and elementary precautions are observed. We have not formulated any standards and have only quoted as a basis for our interpretation of dust count the standards which have already been published and universally accepted with regard to dangerous concentrations of silica dust. The latter can not possibly be avoided and we shall have to stand for the criticism involved.

Yours very sincerely,

C.-E.A. Winslow

