FILE NAME: General Dynamics (GED)

DATE: 1964 Nov 17

DOC#: GED002

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter - from Connecticut Dept of Health

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Occupational Health Section
Joseph J. Stapor, M. D., Chief

November 17, 1965

General Dynamics Corporation
Electric Boat Division
Eastern Point Road
Groton, Connecticut

Attention: Mr. Harold J. Morgan, Chief Safety Engineer

COPY

Gentlemen:

A study was made on October 27, 1965 by Mr. G. H. Vance and Mr. Joseph R. Smolen to determine the atmospheric concentrations of asbestos and other dusts to which workers in the Insulation Department are exposed. The primary interest was in the bandsaw cutting of various insulations blocks and pipe coverings.

It is difficult to evaluate the exposure of the workers due to the variety of operations carried out by each worker with considerable variation of dissemination of dust and the difference in compositions of materials used. The industrial hygiene threshold limit for asbestos dust is 5 million particles per cubic foot of air. The limit for Kalo, or calcium silicate dust is 50 million particles per cubic foot of air. Dust concentrations found during bandsaw cutting operations on the insulation barge on the wet docks were very high and should be controlled.

The first sample was taken on the barge at the bandsaw which has no exhaust ventilation. The sample was collected in the breathing zone of the worker during cutting of Kalo Blocks. A concentration of 288 million particles of dust per cubic foot of air was found in this sample.

A second sample was taken during cutting of Unibestos pipe coverings on the large bandsaw located in the small room on board the insulation barge. This saw was equipped with mechanical exhaust ventilation. The concentration of dust found in this sample was 54.5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

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A third sample was collected during bandsaw cutting of both Kalo blocks and Unibestos on the exhausted bandsaw located in the main shop in the Maintenance Building in the South Yards. The concentration of dust was 5.4 million particles per cubic foot of air.

The first two samples are considerably in excess of the threshold limit of 5 million particles per cubic foot of air for asbestos dust. It is recommended that mechanical exhaust ventilation be provided for the two bandsaws without exhaust ventilation, located outside the small room on the insulation barge. The existing ventilation on the large bandsaw inside the small room on the insulation barge should be improved to provide effective control of the dust.

The third sample indicates that borderline concentrations of dust result from bandsaw cutting operation in the main shop. Since the operations are intermittent, control on this unit is considered to be effective.

We shall plan to continue working with you on this problem until effective control is achieved.

Sincerely yours,

ALC

ALC:lg

Allan L. Coleman
Chief Industrial Hygienist

cc: Mr. J. F. Parker
Industrial Engineer

A. Duncan MacDougall, M. D.
Medical Director