Barry Castleman's DuPont File

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EXHIBIT # P-Morgan-7
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E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
INCORPORATED
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

HASKELL LABORATORY
FOR
TOXICOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

February 2, 1970

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S. M. HIRSTY	- ELASTOMERS
P. R. JOHNSON	- ELASTOMERS
D. B. FORMAN	- ELASTOMERS
A. F. CHADWICK	- ELECTROCHEMICALS
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ASBESTOS DUST INHALATION

Attached to this letter is a proposal for a Company-wide Conference to discuss the health effects of inhalation of asbestos and the means of measuring and controlling the hazards. This letter is an invitation to you to attend the conference and to arrange for attendance by all persons in your department who have a need to know about these matters.

There are several reasons for arranging this conference at this time.

The following quotation illustrates the concern that exists in industrial medical circles:(1)

> "With the increasing use and indispensability of asbestos minerals, there has come realization of some very real hazards that must be better defined and controlled. Present standards for dust control do not appear adequate to prevent asbestosis over a working lifetime, and many segments of industry aggressively attacking the problem have already been using more rigorous standards. The associations between asbestos minerals and malignancies

(1) Asbestos as a Hazard to Health. Fact and Speculation. W. C. Cooper. Arch. Environmental Health 15, 285-290 (Sept., 1967).

BETTER THINGS FOR BETTER LIVING ... THROUGH CHEMISTRY

of the lungs, pleura, and peritoneum have become increasingly convincing. Current efforts must be directed toward better definition of the importance of type, size of fiber and the importance of co-factors."

As you well appreciate, asbestos and asbestos products are widely used within the Du Pont Company. There has been a lack of a unified program for the appraisal of dustiness and for controlling the inhalation of asbestos. Now there is an increased interest on the part of governmental agencies in all aspects of occupational health and safety. Last year new regulations were published under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and a part of these regulations includes the adoption of the limits for concentration of asbestos dust in the air. In addition to this action there was proposed in Congress, during the last session, that a federal act should regulate the amounts of contaminants that occur in the air in work places. This Legislation failed of passage, but undoubtedly will come again before Congress and it is anticipated by persons in the health protection field that there will be federal legislation.

Concerning the widespread use of asbestos in the Du Pont Company, it is a fact that in chemical processing asbestos is almost ubiquitous. It occurs in insulation for vessels and pipelines. In the past, and continuing to the present, asbestos has been a commonly used insulating material. Insulating material that is purchased is fabricated within shops on Du Pont plants, is installed, and eventually is removed. Removal of old insulation as in demolition may present a risk of encountering types of asbestos that are not commonly used today, including crocidolite which is acknowledged to be particularly dangerous with respect to the causation of mesothelioma (a type of cancer). Besides its use in insulating material, asbestos is also purchased and used as an additive material to perform special functions in some products.

Attendance at the Conference will not be limited in numbers provided you will inform us in advance of the numbers from your department who will attend so that arrangements may be made.

It is anticipated that there will be some expenses involved in arranging the Conference and in obtaining the best possible scientists for the program. Haskell Laboratory will have to ask that the costs be borne by the departments sending participants in a manner similar to the registration fees for any professional conference.

In deciding upon participation by representatives of your department we would urge that anyone who needs to have a good understanding of this problem and how to handle it in order to fulfill the obligations of the departments and plants should have an opportunity to attend.

It is requested that prompt attention be given to this matter so that in thirty days we may have the names of prospective attendees. A date has not been chosen yet, but we expect to arrange to hold the Conference no more than sixty days from now. The date will be given you as soon as it can be fixed.

James F. Morgan

JAMES F. MORGAN
CONSULTANT,
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

JFM/bjd
Attachment

ASBESTOS CONFERENCE

It is proposed that a company-wide conference be held on the subject of the possible risk of injury to the health of employees arising out of the use of asbestos and asbestos products and on the means of effectively eliminating the risk.

Reason for the Conference

Mankind's knowledge of the health effects of inhaled asbestos, including asbestosis, pulmonary carcinoma, and mesothelioma has been and is being re-appraised in the light of new knowledge and re-evaluation of older facts. Standards that have been developed and used over the years for the control of inhalation and its health effects are undergoing reappraisal.

As an engineering guide for the control of dustiness, the Threshold Limit Value of five million particles per cubic foot of air has been useful in reducing the occurrence of cases of the type of pneumonoconiosis known as asbestosis. The modern day appreciation of an increased incidence of pulmonary carcinoma among persons who have asbestosis and are cigarette smokers and the recognition of mesotheliomas among persons with histories of asbestos exposures have brought about extensive re-examination of our standards. It has become necessary to critically review and examine the levels of control of dustiness in Du Pont shops.

Persons having responsibility and/or concern in these matters, representing several of the manufacturing departments, have contacted Haskell Laboratory for advice on the levels of fibrous dust control that is necessary and on the methods of evaluating the effectiveness of control measures. They and others are faced with the necessity of making decisions involving choices of methods of proceeding.

Purpose of the Conference

The Conference would be expected to satisfy the needs that have emerged by bringing together people with specialized knowledge of the asbestos problem with those in the Company who bear the responsibility of defining for Plant Management and Departmental Management the needs that exist and of recommending the means of controlling the hazard.

There has been intelligent concern in this country about the health problems of asbestos since the decade of the thirties. This has been apparent from the efforts put forth by the medical profession, industrial management, labor unions,

government agencies, and independent scientific investigators. There are experts on each of the major aspects of the problem:

1. The mineralogy of asbestos;

2. Disease conditions produced by inhalation of asbestos;

3. The epidemiology of health effects from asbestos inhalation;

4. The measurement and control of exposures to asbestos inhalation;

5. Compensation of employees for disease produced by asbestos inhalation.

The Conference would present an exposition of the first four of these aspects so that Du Pont needs could be recognized and dealt with in a unified manner.

Structure of the Conference

The Conference would consist of two principal parts:

A) A presentation by experts of the facts concerning (1) the nature and extent of the health problem, (2) the relationships between degree of exposure to asbestos inhalation and health effects, and (3) methods of controlling asbestos inhalation and for measuring the effectiveness of control;

B) A discussion among Du Pont personnel representing the various departments covering (1) things to be done, and (2) a consensus agreement on methods.

In order to obtain the advice and views of experts who have devoted major portions of their time and attention to the asbestos problem in its several aspects, it would be desirable to invite scientists and engineers from outside Du Pont to participate in Part A.

It would not be necessary for them to participate in Part B; in fact, advantages are foreseen in limiting attendance at Part B to authorized Du Pont personnel.

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PROPOSED AGENDA

Part A

The types of asbestos minerals.
Mineralogy, sources, uses, quantities used.

History and description of diseases produced by the inhalation of asbestos.

The incidence of asbestos diseases and distribution of cases.

The measurement of asbestos fibers and particles in the air of work places.

Acceptable concentrations of asbestos in the air in work places.

Part B

Panel Discussion

1. The occurrence and use of asbestos and asbestos products in Du Pont operations.

2. Should there be a standardized method of collecting and evaluating air samples for asbestos concentrations? If so, what is the method of choice?

3. What should be regarded as acceptable concentrations of asbestos in the air in Du Pont work places?

4. Medical studies to correlate environmental conditions with the health experience of Du Pont workers.

JFM/bjd
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