



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of
Labor and Industries
State House, Boston

October 1, 1934.

Anthony J. Lanza, M.D.,
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company,
1 Madison Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Dear Tony:

I think you may find the enclosed statement not wholly uninteresting reading. Since it is reasonably complete I will add to it only a word or two as to the status of the project at this writing.

The E.R.A. administration is all set to start the project at the drop of a hat. They are really very enthusiastic. I have approached several organizations as to contributions toward the "further expense". Amusingly enough, the first definite promise of cash comes from Sam Squibb, whose organization cannot, however, be expected to give more than \$100.00. That the American Granite Association is definitely interested is attested by the enclosed copy of a letter from their executive secretary to their president. My hope is that they will give us \$500.00. The workmen's compensation insurance carriers have the matter before one of their committees and I hope that a similar sum will be forthcoming from them. Dr. Fred Lord, president of the Massachusetts Tuberculosis League, heartily endorses the project (as does also Dr. Chadwick), but feels that in view of the national scope of the benefits to be looked for as well as the limited budget of his league a contribution should be sought from the National Tuberculosis Association. He has not, however, by any means turned down our request. I have accordingly just dictated a lengthy letter to Dr. Kendall Emerson, in which I have taken the liberty of suggesting that you are familiar with what we are up to in Massachusetts and would probably be willing to tell him something about our humble efforts. What his response will be I have no idea.

It occurs to me that this is the sort of venture to which the Metropolitan might be induced to lend a financial hand. If there is anything in this idea, please tell me to whom I should address my plea. For a number of reasons, it is important to get

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this project under way as speedily as possible. There seems little doubt that we can raise the money in one way or another, but what we really want is several guarantees of \$500.00 or more from organizations which are in a position to act promptly. Then we can get under way and leave the smaller and more dilatory offerings to take care of whatever expense beyond the estimated \$1500.00 minimum we may later run into.

Whether your company comes to bat on this or not, I hope that our project can be said to have the endorsement of its esteemed Assistant Medical Director. I am enclosing several copies of the statement, with the thought that you may wish to pass them along to whoever may be interested, such as Don Armstrong or Dr. McConnell.

I am still waiting hopefully for your next visit to Boston. May it be soon. I seem to find no excuse whatever for a trip to New York. Our department is still commissionerless.

Sincerely,



Manfred Bowditch
Director
Division of Occupational Hygiene

MB:GM

Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries

PROPOSED E.R.A. GRANITE DUST CONTROL PROJECT

No more pressing occupational disease problem exists in the Commonwealth than that of the pulmonary diseases (silicosis, silico-tuberculosis) caused by dust in the granite industry. The question of dust control in the large granite plant has been notably answered by the recent installation of exhaust equipment in the new shop of the E. E. Fletcher Company at West Chelmsford, Mass. This installation, however, embodies features quite beyond the range of the small and none-too-adequately capitalized establishment typical of the industry in this state, and there is no exaggeration of the dual problem still facing us in the statement that, if the granite worker is to survive, we must remove the killing dust in which he works; if the smaller industrial unit is to survive, we must find a way to do this at minimum expense.

Chapter 44 of the Resolves of 1934 directs the Department of Labor and Industries "to make reasonable rules, regulations and orders applicable to all persons engaged in said (granite) industry for the prevention of industrial or occupational diseases therein." Such rules, regulations and orders, dealing principally with dust control, must shortly be made and enforced. Until this is done (and for a time thereafter), dust disease will continue to levy its ever-increasing tax upon every worker, employer and insurer in the industry. When it is done, the ability of the industry to meet the newly imposed conditions will be proportional to the extent to which the above stated problem has been solved.

As a means of achieving results in this field more quickly than would otherwise be possible, it is proposed that the Emergency Relief Administration be asked to establish a work project wherein a small group of engineers, technicians, draftsmen, sheet metal and granite workers will be engaged for an estimated period of six months to study, design and construct, under adequate supervision and with necessary equipment, devices for the removal and collection of the dust incident to the various operations of the smaller granite establishment with the greatest efficiency consistent with moderate cost.

Preliminary discussion with officials of the E.R.A. indicates their probable approval of such a project. If established, the E.R.A. will pay the wages of all workers engaged in the project, as well as those of a competent foreman or supervisor. Responsible sponsorship is required. This, and close supervisory co-operation, will be provided by this department. An apparently satisfactory location has been found in a typical small granite establishment, at present closed, in the city of Quincy. Equipped with air compressor and the usual tools, it is offered rent-free, under reasonable conditions, for the estimated period of the project. Two major items of expense, wages and rent, are thus accounted for.

Probable further expense of the project, depending on its duration, weather conditions and the possibility of securing certain equipment second-hand or on a loan basis, is estimated as follows:

Shop equipment	\$500 to \$400
Exhaust equipment	300 to 400
Materials	300 to 400
Repairs to building	100 to 200
Power, light	100 to 150
Fuel	100 to 150
Drafting equipment	100
Heating equipment	100
Sundries	100
	\$1500 to \$2000

This must be met from sources other than the E.R.A. The granite employers, granite workers, workmen's compensation insurance carriers and public and industrial health organizations suggest themselves as groups primarily interested. With results of such importance to be anticipated, the raising of so small a sum seems hardly open to question.

Manfred Bowditch

September 21, 1934.