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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Dr. Lanza from Dr. Smart RE Dr. Vorwald Trip to Southern CA to Visit Three Diatomaceous Earth

REGINALD H. SMART, M. D.
1136 WEST SIXTH STREET
LOS ANGELES. - CALIF.

February 2, 1949

Dr. A. J. Lanza, Chairman
Institute of Industrial Medicine
New York University
Bellevue Medical Center
477 First Avenue
New York 16, New York

Dear Tony:

You no doubt know that Dr. Vorwald plans to visit southern California during the early part of April. At present he plans to visit the plants of the three diatomaceous earth producers on the Pacific coast, Johns-Manville, Dicalite, and Eagle-Picher. This would take him to Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Reno, Nevada, and possibly Terrebonne, Oregon. Dr. Vorwald has asked that I make plans for his visit and arrange an agenda. I have been told by executives of the Eagle-Picher and Dicalite companies that they would like to have Dr. Vorwald visit their plants and to confer with their executives, and I understand from correspondence of Mr. J. P. Woodard that Johns-Manville will take a leading part in making arrangements for Vorwald's visit. If I am to help in arranging his agenda I need to know now exactly what are the objectives for this trip. It seems obvious that one of the chief aims would be to acquaint Dr. Vorwald with the processes and problems of the industry as they relate to the health of the workers.

Some months ago it was suggested by you and Dr. Vorwald that a conference should be held in California to which would be invited representatives from several state bureaus, i.e., the California State Department of Health, the Industrial Accident Commission, and the Division of Industrial Safety of the Department of Industrial Relations. Do the executives of the three companies involved still wish to hold such a conference, and if so, how is it to be conducted, who is to participate in this conference, and just how are invitations to be extended to the various agencies? Do I understand that industrial physicians in private practice are to be invited? Are compensation insurance carriers, their engineers and attorneys to be included, etc.?

Are any additional meetings to be held which would be open to the general medical profession, and particularly to certain specialists in the profession who might be interested in diatomaceous earth, such as pathologists, chest specialists, and industrial physicians? You will recall that when Dr. L. U. Gardner made his visit to California in 1945 we had four scientific meetings out here, one in Santa Barbara and three in Los Angeles.

At the time of Dr. Vorwald's trip should there be a conference to consider what future research work ought to be carried on with diatomaceous earth, in an effort to elucidate some of the problems of occupational health which we are encountering in this industry? Executives from both the Eagle-Fischer and the Dicalite companies have expressed to me, informally, a desire to participate in any future research work on diatomaceous earth, providing that satisfactory details (both scientific and financial) of a plan can be agreed upon. Would not this be a good time for us to decide which problems should be explored in future experimental studies? I presume that the details of how such research is to be financed could be worked out by the executives of the three producers and the one insurance carrier involved at another time, possibly in New York City, providing all were agreed that the research work should be done and that the expense should be shared in some way.

At the present time Dr. Vorwald expects to attend the meeting of the California Tuberculosis and Health Association to be held in San Francisco April 4, 5, and 6, which will be attended largely by Public Health people (physicians, public health nurses, social workers, and other professional and technical personnel) as well as private physicians specializing in chest diseases. Dr. Vorwald has not submitted a subject, but will probably discuss diatomaceous earth pneumoconiosis, and possibly the pulmonary conditions caused by bauxite and beryllium. I believe he discussed these conditions in a symposium held in New York City a few months ago, and the men on the Coast have expressed a desire to have it repeated out here. The appearance of the Italian paper and Dr. Vorwald's paper which was read at London, as well as other presentations on the subject, such as our meeting at Chicago, have all served to increase the interest of physicians in the matter of the possible hazards of diatomaceous earth. The men in California feel that there has been more discussion of this subject in other parts of the world than here on the Pacific Coast where the industry is located.

You can see from the above that we all need to know precisely what the objectives of Dr. Vorwald's trip are before making plans for his visit. I presume the details of the cost of his trip and the matter of reimbursement can be worked out by a conference between the executives of the four corporations.

There is one other item which can be settled only after we know the purposes of his survey. Is anyone to accompany Dr. Vorwald? Is he to bring out assistants, like the industrial safety engineer of the laboratory, Mr. Urban, to help evaluate the dust control measures of the plants? Should others attend, such as the laboratory chemist, Mr. Durkan? You will remember that when the Dicalite Corporation had a conference out here between their executives, consultants, attorneys, and representatives of their insurance carrier, certain questions concerning the physico-chemical reactions occurring in the processing of diatomaceous earth were raised which threw the conference into some confusion. I believe this incident could have been avoided had we had some qualified laboratory

Dr. A. J. Lanza 2/2/49

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person present, such as Dr. Cummins of the J-M Company or Mr. Durkan of the Saranac Laboratory.

1/c/ Should I send copies of this letter to the persons listed below, so that all interested parties may give consideration to the questions raised? Would you be good enough to discuss this with the Johns-Manville executives who, I believe, first proposed that Dr. Vorwald make the trip? I am sorry to bother you with this, but some decisions must be made and soon.

Sincerely,

RHS/dr

Reginald H. Smart, M.D.

✓ J. P. Woodard — J-M
A. S. Eisenhart — J-M
D. R. Tellefsen — G.L.C.
W. M. Anderson — J-M
A. J. Vorwald — Saranac
T. A. Copeland — E-P
T. C. Carter — E-P
A. S. Johnson — Am. Mut. Ins. Co.

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KEASBEY & MATTISON COMPANY

MANUFACTURERS OF ASBESTOS AND ASBESTOS PRODUCTS SINCE 1872

AMBLE, PENNSYLVANIA

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

March 10, 1949

Mr. Vandiver Brown, Secretary
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, N. Y.



Dear Mr. Brown:

Subject: Saranac Laboratory
Asbestos Dust Experiments

Thank you very much for your letter of March 3rd enclosing a copy of the Saranac Laboratory revised report entitled "Asbestos Pneumoconiosis" which I will study with great interest.

I note you have renewed the request that the Saranac Laboratory arrange for the publication of the report as promptly as possible, preferably in the Journal of Industrial Hygiene, and with an appropriate introduction by Dr. A. J. Lanza. From this I presume that the report is no longer considered to be confidential, and if my understanding of this is incorrect I will very much appreciate your advising me as soon as possible. Also, unless the report is to be published in its entirety by the Saranac Laboratory at an early date, I ask that you be so kind as to arrange for me to receive an additional copy.

On behalf of our Company I wish to thank you, Mr. Woodard and the members of your organization for the excellent work and assistance which you have given throughout the extended period covering the preparation of this report.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. B. Woodard". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

President

em:ck
4900

July 21, 1949

Dr. A. J. Vervald, Director
The Sarnac Laboratory
Sarnac Lake, New York

Asbestos Dust Experiments
PUBLICATION OF ASBESTOS REPORT

Dear Art:

As mentioned in our conversation there last week, the various members of the group of companies who underwrote the program have been asking when the article will be published in the Journal of Industrial Hygiene covering the results of the asbestos experiments that you carried out. Some of them are apparently in dire need of the publication of such authoritative information inasmuch as they now have some claims pending that would likely be affected by the information the experiments disclose.

Mr. Vandiver Brown asked me if there was any late word from you and I told him that, in our conversation last week, you said that you hoped to have the article ready for publication within a month to six weeks.

There is some reference in our previous correspondence to an understanding that you were to submit the article to us for review before publication. Perhaps I originated this idea, though I can't tell from the correspondence. Mr. Vandiver Brown expressed the opinion that there was no need of this further delay inasmuch as the complete study which we have all reviewed together outlines the facts, and an article following this study report would necessarily be in keeping with the understanding we all have of the situation.

Accordingly, would you proceed to have the article published as promptly as you can without sending it to us. Could the entire report be sent to the Journal of Industrial Hygiene and published in that fashion, or is it necessary that you rewrite and condense the report?

In any case, I trust that the information will be published just as promptly as possible. I am glad to know that even if you do have to reprepare or condense the material, this can be done within the next month or six weeks, as you mentioned to me.

If there is any delay beyond this estimated time, will you please let me know so that the various interested companies, who are so anxious to have this published right away, may be advised.

Yours sincerely,

J. P. Woodard

cc: Vandiver Brown
A. J. Lanza, M. D.

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General Headquarters
August 1, 1949

P. F. Dybdal - Redwood City

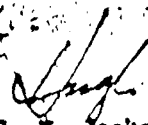
E. R. Montague

Since I was away on a plant visit at the time your July 25 letter arrived, Mr. Woodard contacted and obtained from Dr. A. J. Lanza, our medical consultant, the names of medical personnel in the San Francisco area who are considered expert in the pneumoconiosis field. By this time Mr. Dyer may have obtained the services of Dr. T. B. Wiper as was done in the Palomar case. However, if such action has not been taken, it would be well to recommend the following to him for consultation in this and other cases:

Dr. A. Corwin Hinshaw
490 Post Street
San Francisco

Uldall & O'Neill, Roentgenologists
450 Sutter Street
San Francisco

We will be very much interested, of course, in the opinions rendered based on the study of our X-ray films and those furnished by Mr. Montague.


H. R. Jackson

HML:POH
cc: J. P. Woodard
A. Cronwell

October 13, 1949

Dr. A. J. Vorwald, Director
The Saranac Laboratory
Saranac Lake, New York

Dear Art:

My apologies for phoning you Tuesday before you had had an opportunity to get my letter of October 10 asking about the date of publication of the article on the asbestos studies.

The facts are that the information developed in our conversation last July that the article would be ready for publication in four to six weeks was passed on to a number of people, including people in the other companies in the group that underwrote the study.

These companies are continually asking about this and a couple just recently reminded Van Brown of the fact that the date is getting late for them and that they have some urgent cases which they think would be alleviated by publication of the facts ascertained in the study.

You said you are now quite certain that the article will be in Phil Drinker's hands within the next thirty days for publication in the Journal of Industrial Hygiene. You also said you would send along fourteen copies of the article to me when it is sent to Drinker. These will be sent to the participating companies so they will know it is in the hands of the publisher and can look out for it.

I am mentioning to Dr. Lanza your comment that it may take weeks, or even months, to get the article published after it reaches Drinker with the idea that he may be able to speed up the publication. If you are here at the meeting Monday week, you can probably give us a more accurate date as to when the article will be finished.

Yours sincerely,

J. P. Woodard

Blind cc: Vandiver Brown
A. J. Lanza, M. D.