

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUEBEC ASBESTOS
MINING ASSOCIATION, HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 10th, 1967
AT THE MANOIR RICHELIEU, MURRAY BAY, QUEBEC

Present:

Messrs. M.J. Messel	M.P. Carson	Dr. P. Pelnar
W.W. Oughtred	D.T. Colton	L. Pluze
R.S. Coleman	Y. Couture	D. Poirier
K.V. Lindell	R. Dodds-Hebron	P.H. Riordon
J.A. Main	J.W. Duncan	G.C. Scowcroft
R.J. Merrill	J.O. Eby	Dr. G.W. Wright
P.A. Meyer	W.H. Foster	G. Robinson
F.P. Smith	R.P. Gagnon	I. Sabourin
R.D. Bradford	N.W. Hendry	Paul A. Filteau
I.C. Campbell	L.G. Langlois	

Occupational and Environmental Health Committee

The President Mr. Messel, invited K.V. Lindell, Chairman of the Occupational and Environmental Health Committee to lead the discussion. After a few words of introduction, Mr. Lindell asked Dr. G.W. Wright to review the work of the Scientific Committee during the past year.

Dr. Wright repeated that there is definitely a threat of clear-cut evidence of lung cancer associated with asbestos fibre. This fact has led to the development of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health in order to cope

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the problems involved. Within the Institute, there is a Scientific Committee which has over the past year developed new information on the subject, with the aim to advise on how to utilize asbestos fibre without danger to health. The members of the Scientific Committee and their reputation are well known; they are: Dr. Fernand Grégoire, Dr. Marvin Kuschner, Dr. Daniel Braun, Dr. Paul Kotin, Dr. John Beattie, Dr. Geo.W. Wright, Dr. P. Pelnar, Secretary.

With respect to significant publications issued last year on the problem, it can be said that the information given is rather directional and not quantitative. Three of these papers are of special interest.

1. One by Dr. Enterline, which shows that there are excessive deaths among the asbestos textile population.
2. The second one is a follow-up by Dr. Selikoff on asbestos exposure, smoking and neoplasia. This study points to the relationship between the two factors in lung cancer - Cocarcinogenesis. This leads to scare-articles, such as that which appeared about Expo.
3. A third one by Dr. Cralley suggests that trace-metals incorporated with fibres may be the cause of cancer.

There is a need and the Scientific Committee is looking for reliable data other than that provided by a study of a group of insulation workers. The epidemiological survey of Dr. McDonald is a good case with chrysotile fibre, and the kind of study required with well defined exposures. Dr. McDonald also proposes to study the incidence of mesothelioma in Canada.

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More studies, especially prospective studies, are badly needed and interest in that type of work must be generated. Information is also lacking on the basic chemical and biological action of asbestos on the body; work in this field must be promoted.

At this point, Dr. Wright tabled the proposed agenda for the second Antigua Conference. The agenda is divided into four (4) parts:

1. Characterization and control of environmental exposure.
2. Interaction between asbestos and biological system.
3. Disease in man (epidemiology)
4. Report from various countries.

So far, appreciable information have been collected under the supervision of Dr. Pelnar in the Montreal Office. Any request for information to be directed to this Office.

Q.A.M.A. is also fortunate to have Messrs. Lindell and Sabourin on the Executive Committee, to discuss and stimulate the thinking of the members of the Scientific Committee, particularly vis-à-vis the work of Dr. Selikoff, who has been a healthy nemesis.

The President having expressed sincere thanks to Dr. Wright, the Chairman of the Committee then submitted two additional lists of guests recommended to participate in the

Antigua Conference. The participation of this group will involve an additional expense of 335,000.00. The Chairman moved that such an amount (less any sums than can be recovered from the regular budgets) be approved as to complete the invitations and program of the proposed Antigua Conference.

ADOPTED.

The Secretary of the Executive Committee was asked to report and did so by distributing a detailed report covering meetings of the Scientific Committee, various Scientific Symposia specimens of current papers and information on environmental research laboratory.

The question was raised as to the recent bad publicity concerning asbestos and health. Not only has Dr. Selikoff's latest paper been given wide publicity across Canada concerning the alleged relationship between smoking, asbestos lung cancer, but the Financial Post recently had an article on asbestos insulation in British railway coaches which seems almost actionable.

The Public Relations Committee is of the opinion that the time has come for us to produce some rebuttal, and is anxious to meet with the Scientific Committee of the Occupational and Environmental Health Committee with a view to discussing the possibilities of providing some counter propaganda, as agreed at the Jasper meeting last Summer.

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It was stated by the Chairman that it was not possible at this time to produce any counter-publicity, such as suggested by the Public Relations Committee, since sufficient scientific data is not yet available. However should any company wish to issue pertinent information, it could very well use some of the publicity recently released in England. To this effect, copies of said releases will be distributed to all members for the use of their individual company.

Effects of the Carter Report on the Mining Industry

At a joint meeting of the QMMA and GAMA Taxation Committee, it was agreed that some representations should be made to the Provincial Government as to the effects of the Carter Commission Recommendations insofar as they concern the mining industry. The mechanics of making such representations were discussed and it was suggested that there were two (2) ways of doing this.

- a) Write directly to the Prime Minister offering to make such representations if he so wished, either to him directly or to the Committee, which we understand has been set up to study the effects of the Carter Commission Report on Quebec, or
- b) Talk to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Dozois, at the time of presenting the brief on the Bélanger Commission making the same offer.

6.

In the meantime members are to review the preliminary draft of the brief to the Mining Association of Canada to the Federal Government with a view to including a copy of it with any representations made to Quebec with our endorsement and together with any supporting evidence which would be available with particular reference to the Province of Quebec.

It was felt that similar factors apply in considering whether the Quebec Mining Association should also make representations to Ottawa, bearing in mind that there is very little time available.

Effectively, a draft letter has been prepared by the Secretary of the Taxation Committee, Mr. Victor St-Onge, covering several aspects of the Carter Report, said letter to be addressed to the Prime Minister of this Province. This letter stresses the economic contribution of the mining industry to Quebec, through employment, tax assessments, support to secondary industry etc. Cases of doubtful mining projects as a result of the Carter Recommendations would be pointed out, as well as the importance of mining incentives in determining the economics when the decision must be made to develop or not a newly discovered orebody.

Since the meeting of the Taxation Committee, Quebec Cartier Mining Company offered copies of a typical letter to suppliers in which it requested their support in opposing the recommendations of the Carter Commission with respect to the mining industry, since suppliers would be indirectly affected by any change in the tax burden of the mining industry.

Special Winter Meeting

Dates suggested are the first part of the fourth (4th) week of January or March, preferably March. The place could be:

1. The Hilton Head Hotel
2. Grand Bahama Club
3. Santa Barbara Biltmore

Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on October 16, 1967, in Quebec City.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is formally adjourned.

Paul A. Filteau,
Secretary
&
General Manager.

