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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: → J. A. Zapp, Jr.
J. W. Clayton, Jr.
FROM: G. J. Stopps

C-00227

THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF THE USE OF ASBESTOS AND ASBESTOS PRODUCTS WITHIN THE DU PONT COMPANY

Meeting held at Haskell Laboratory for Toxicology and Industrial Medicine, October 25, 1966.

Present:

C. A. D'Alonzo, M.D. - Medical Director
J. R. Zahn, M.D. - Assistant Medical Director
J. A. Zapp, Jr. - Director, Haskell Laboratory
J. W. Clayton, Jr. - Assistant Director, Haskell Laboratory
W. E. Neeld, Jr., M.D. - Medical Director, Chambers Works
A. L. Linch - Manager, Industrial Hygiene Laboratory
S. Pell - Biostatistician, Medical Division
W. H. Zane - Design Division, Engineering Department
G. J. Stopps, M.D. - Chief, Physiology Section, Haskell Laboratory
C. F. Reinhardt, M.D. - Physiologist, Haskell Laboratory

Statement of Problem:

Asbestos has been recognized for many years to cause a chest disease called asbestosis. This is a fibrosis of the lung and is associated with several years' exposure to asbestos fibers at concentrations above the Threshold Limit Value of 5 million particles per cubic foot. More recently (within the past 10 years) an association between asbestos exposure and cancer has become apparent. This association shows itself in three ways. One, persons with established asbestosis have an incidence of cancer of the lung or pleura of approximately 13 per cent compared with a rate of 1.32 per cent for persons suffering from silicosis. Two, persons not suffering from asbestosis but who have a history of exposure to asbestos show a tenfold increase in the incidence of cancer of the respiratory system. Three, among the persons developing cancer who have been exposed to asbestos, a small number show a type of tumor which is very rare in the general population. In cases showing this tumor, the occupational history of the person has almost always revealed a period of exposure to asbestos.

The association of cancer with asbestos is of special concern at this time because of the lack of data upon which to base a safe dust concentration and the very long incubation period between the initial exposure and the development of cancer. This time interval varies from 15 to 45 years.

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