

Chicago, February 23, 1938

Mr. H. B. Voorhees -

Supplementing my letter of November 6th, 1937 having reference to your file 1-332, concerning the requirements of the Illinois Occupational Diseases Act:

With my letter of November 6th I handed you one complete set of blue prints made up in accordance with request contained in General Managers' Association of Chicago circular GMA-2603.

I also advised you that I had delegated Mr. Beniff, chemical engineer, to make a complete survey of each machinehouse, shop and car department on the M&ST and Alton to determine what he would have to do to comply with the Act, and while making the survey he would instruct the supervision and each employee performing work that would involve asbestosis, silicosis or lead poisoning as to the hazards involved and how the work should be performed to avoid the hazards.

Mr. Beniff has now completed his survey and I attach copy of memorandum covering conditions that now subject certain classes of our employees to the hazards of asbestosis, silicosis or lead poisoning, which also sets forth ways and means of correcting these conditions and eliminating these hazards, which is self-explanatory.

Moreover, to provide ventilating hoods over babbitting, melting brass, brazing and such operations at Blue-Island shop will involve considerable expense, and before any action is taken in this direction would recommend that the matter be handled with the General Managers' Association with a view of having them inform us as to the exact minimum requirements for hoods that would be acceptable under the Illinois Occupational Diseases Act. If this is not done, hoods we would construct might either be more elaborate and expensive than necessary, or on the other hand might not meet the approval of the Division of Factory Inspection, Department of Health, or other State department having jurisdiction in the matter. After we receive such information we could then prepare an estimate of the cost to equip the various locations where the above mentioned operations are performed with suitable hoods.

With respect to dry grinders, we are now considering converting all, or nearly all of these to wet grinders, which will avoid the purchase of respirators for employees that now do grinding on dry grinders. However, it will still be necessary to purchase at this time, to provide employees involved, with proper protection approximately the following -

- 70 type 'A' respirators
- 27 type 'C' respirators
- 5 hose masks
- 1 hood respirator

22.0