Inter Office

Scientific Research Staff

June 12, 1975

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT FD-271

To: D. R. Coulson

cc: T. Cole
S. Gratch

Subject: SRS Research Grant -- Mount Sinai School of Medicine, City University of New York

The grantee is utilizing the grant funds in its investigation of possible health hazards due to exposure of workers in vehicular maintenance shops to respirable particles of brake dust. Measurements were made of asbestos fiber in the air of several such shops in New York City; and lung X-rays, pulmonary tests, and blood tests were taken of garage workers.

The asbestos fiber concentrations were determined at various distances from different brake maintenance operations, including the cleaning of drums by blowing with an air jet, brake lining grinding, and brake lining beveling. (The Mount Sinai people recognize that vacuum-brush cleaning of brake drums is preferred to air jet blowing because of the clouds of dust raised by the latter method, and indicated that the larger shops in New York City are in fact converting to vacuum systems.)

The clinical tests were performed on 93 garage workers (not necessarily associated with the garages which were air-sampled), and the incidence of abnormalities in lung X-rays, pulmonary functions, and blood were assessed. Some of the examined workers regularly do brake work while some are exposed only occasionally or incidentally.

The investigation is headed by Dr. William Nicholson, a physicist on the staff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Nicholson will forward details of the results of the study.

Ann Mackler, a M.S. mineralogist who is working toward her Ph.D. degree, is a participant in this work, along with CUNY staff members.

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