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WEST SOMERSET WATER BOARD

NORTH TOWN HOUSE
3-5 STAPLEGROVE ROAD
TAUNTON
TELEPHONE TAUNTON 81095

CHIEF ENGINEER
W. J. WONNACOTT, M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E.
CHARTERED CIVIL ENGINEER

CLERK & TREASURER
A. N. COCKAYNE, F.I.M.T.A., A.M.B.I.M.

YOUR REF.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

OUR REF. wjw/jlr/t/43

9th January 1964

Dear Sirs,

Asbestos Dust

My attention has been drawn to a copy of the enclosed article which appeared recently in the Daily Telegraph.

I am somewhat concerned about the Board's employees who use a Broom & Wade PK 3/65 compressor cutting tool when cutting asbestos pipes, and it has been noted in this operation that a considerable amount of dust is thrown off by the cutter.

I have no doubt that your operatives are already equipped with a suitable face mask during the work of processing your pipes. If this is so and the type of mask is efficient, I should be extremely obliged if you would inform me of the type of mask your Company uses.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Engineer

Masks used by Spray Operatives are Dustpi M66 manufactured by Mine Safety Appliances Ltd Glasgow

& approved as Specially Suitable for Asbestos work by HM Inspectors of Factories.

Turners Asbestos Company Limited,
Old Trafford Park,
MANCHESTER.

023585

JKS/JVP 10th January 1964

MR. R. NEWTON

023590

ASBESTOSIS

I attach a cutting from the 'Daily Telegraph' dated 8th January which refers to the probability of asbestos dust causing tumours in the lungs. Would you please let me know if you have any information or previous knowledge of this association.

for J. K. SHEPHERD

11/1/64 his counterpart with a Mr James. This is in connection with cases arising from asbestosis. Mr Newton had forwarded a paper that Dr Lunt to Dr Knox & asked certain questions. Mr Williams telephoned to say that not much information in this country by DHSS. He is aware of the case at Rhyl & is replying enclosing paper forwarded & keeping matter

ASBESTOS DUST CAUSED TUMOUR AFTER 40 YEARS

Daily Telegraph Reporter

Four minute particles of asbestos inhaled 40 years ago were the cause of tumours in the lungs of John Reilly, taxi driver, of Sanrab Street, Stepney, it was said at a Poplar inquest yesterday. An open verdict was recorded.

Dr. Dermot O'Brien Hourihane, pathologist, said that only a very little asbestos need be inhaled. It usually took about 20 years for the condition to develop. Reilly could have inhaled asbestos dust when working as a lagger in 1923.

The connection between asbestos dust and the disease was discovered in 1957 when people living near the asbestos mine in South Africa developed tumours.

Dr. A. Gordon Davies, the Coroner, said: "It is becoming well recognised as a danger of the use of asbestos and the contact need only be slight. It is becoming more common among people who have worked with asbestos."

South African inquiries

Last night a doctor engaged on research into the disease said: "It doesn't necessarily follow that inhaling asbestos dust will cause lung tumours. A South African doctor is in Britain at the moment inquiring into the disease."

023591

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Dr. A. Gordon Davies, the Coroner said: 'It is becoming well recognised as a danger of the use of asbestos and the contact need only be slight. It is becoming more common among people who have worked with asbestos.'

023586

WAB/PF

31st January 1964

MR. R. NEWTON

cc: TN/JEH

Our representative in Territory 906, Mr. T. B. Lee, has just drawn my attention to a report which appeared in a recent issue of the Daily Telegraph. In view of the nature of the comments I thought it worth while to bring, in turn, this report to your attention and accordingly a copy is attached.

I appreciate that this report may have come to light through the medium of the press cuttings service but, on the other hand, it might for some reason or other have been overlooked.

To me the remarks seem unnecessarily alarmist and of an unjustifiable and damaging character. Perhaps it is indicative of the licence which some Coroners seem to enjoy or assume as part of their appointment.

Taken to the limit one can imagine all employees and users in any way connected with asbestos asking for danger money and/or an indemnity.

W. A. BENNETT

023588