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G. L. WILSON
NATIONAL HYGIENIST

A. J. McMichael, M.D., Ph.D.
Epidemiologist
Occupational Health Studies Group
University of North Carolina
NCNB Plaza, Suite 32
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Dear Dr. McMichael:

This is in regard to your draft of a letter to Firestone employees concerning problems of excess fetal wastage among wives of vinyl chloride workers at the Pottstown plant.

I assume that the principal purpose of the third paragraph of the letter is intended to allay undue fear among the employees. I am concerned that this will not be accomplished. The three reasons stated in your argument that the findings should not be regarded as conclusive may well be valid and appropriately discussed among peers in a scientific forum. However, these comments are addressed to the workers who participated in the study and if I were one of them, I would be highly insulted!! For example, in 1.) my memory is being questioned; in 2.) the implication is that I or my fellow workers were "uncooperative," and in 3.) my honesty is doubted.

I suggest that this entire paragraph be omitted and substituted with a more positive approach to reassure the worker of steps the company has taken to prevent or minimize the likelihood of such a problem.

In regard to your question about NIOSH's plans for a more detailed study of this issue, we do feel that since there is some need to validate our approach, additional studies are anticipated. We would be happy to work out some sort of joint effort.

Sincerely yours,

Bobby F. Craft, Ph.D.
Acting Director
Division of Surveillance, Hazard
Evaluations and Field Studies

BFC:rk

CC: Mr. L. Beliczky, URW
Dr. L. Ballou, Firestone
Mr. G. Wilson, Firestone ✓

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