FILE NAME: Westinghouse (WH)

DATE: 1954 June 11

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to South Phila Works RE Ventilation Needed in Factory

East Pittsburgh, 2-C-46
Industrial Hygiene Laboratory

June 11, 1954

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WH-350

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA WORKS
Industrial Relations
Mr. W. E. McKeldin
Safety Supervisor

With respect to the room in which asbestos cloth is being cut and sewed, the air samples did not indicate exposure to concentrations of asbestos dust above 5 million particles per cubic foot, which is presently regarded as the maximum allowable concentration. However, I have a feeling that these concentrations may vary from time to time in the room. It would be very desirable to ventilate the room more effectively so that the amount of asbestos dust in the breathing atmosphere would be further reduced. When sheet material is being thrown from one bench to another, the concentrations of asbestos fibers in the breathing atmosphere of the sewer in particular would appear to be potentially hazardous. As you know, in the State of Pennsylvania, when a person's chest contains some silicosis and it becomes superimposed with tuberculosis, that this disease becomes compensable. I believe that the same is true in the case of asbestosis. Frequently, the early stages of asbestosis or silicosis are difficult to detect by X-rays and it is also believed that persons suffering from beginning stages of asbestosis or silicosis are more likely to develop tuberculosis. We have such a case in Compensation Court from one of our plants at the present time and they are difficult cases to handle.

As you know, the present fan in the side wall of this room is quite noisy and the men do not operate it more than necessary on account of the noise situation. Therefore, the ventilation of this room should be reconsidered. In the revision of the ventilation of this room, it might be most desirable to have the fan placed on the side of the room with the large number of windows since a good portion of the dust already is moving in this direction. It would be desirable to use a different type of fan in the improvement of this room. By placing the fan on the side wall presently containing most of the windows, the dust fibers collecting along this side of the wall would be ventilated to the outside of the building rather than dragged past the breathing level of the men doing the sewing.

I will greatly appreciate knowing what your final decision on this problem will be.

H. Wilbur Speicher, Administrator
Industrial Hygiene

P.S. These dust samples were found to contain extremely fine particles which would indicate their being more hazardous.

WHS.

IN RE: ABRAMS DECEMBER 1992

East Pittsburgh, 2-6-46
Industrial Hygiene L[redacted]

March 27, 1961

1-N
Transportation & Generator
Harry Mower, Safety Engineer

Air samples were taken during the horizontal boring and facing of asbestos casings in Section MA-3. Three samples were taken at various phases of the operation and one sample was taken in the aisle about 15 feet away from the machine. The dust concentration became so great that the operator could not remain at the machine during the operation.

Our air samples show that the Maximum Allowable Concentration of asbestos dust was considerably exceeded. If this operation is to be continued in the future, it is recommended that an exhaust system be installed. This operation not only presents a significant nuisance problem but it may also cause a serious health hazard if a person is to be exposed continuously over a period of time.

Wesley E. Pires

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT W#-338

IN RE: ASBESTOS DOCUMENTS 1982