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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter Between J-M and Various Companies with
Asbestos Unit Research Report

CANADIAN Johns-Manville CO. LIMITED

ASBESTOS FIBRE DIVISION



TEL. 879-5431

P. O. BOX 1508
ASBESTOS, QUEBEC

KV/S	
CLS	3/20

May 17, 1965

C
O
P
Y

Dr. J. G. McDonald,
Professor and Chairman,
Dept. of Epidemiology and Health,
McGill University,
1033 Pine Avenue West,
Montreal 2, P.Q.

Dear Dr. McDonald:

I can now advise that all companies
have approved unanimously to give you access to
information and any assistance you require to carry
out your survey.

Mr. Roadway had sent his company's
approval, but, must have been lost somewhere in the
mail. He called today to re-affirm their approval
and request that this study be expedited all possible.

Sincerely,

CANADIAN JOHNS-MANVILLE CO., LIMITED

Karl V. Lindell

Karl V. Lindell
Chairman of the Board

cc: Kenneth W. Smith, M.D. - New York
Paul Cartier, M.D. - Thetford Mines
M. J. Messel - President Q.A.M.A.
Ivan Sabourin, Q.C. - J. A. Vidal, M.D.

CANADIAN Johns-Manville CO., LIMITED

ASBESTOS FIBRE DIVISION



TEL. 879-5431

P. O. BOX 1500
ASBESTOS, QUEBEC

KWS	
CLS	

May 11, 1965

C
O
P
Y

Dr. J. C. McDonald,
Professor and Chairman,
Dept. of Epidemiology and Health,
McGill University,
1033 Pine Avenue West,
Montreal 2, P.Q.

Dear Dr. McDonald:

I have now received authority from the following companies permitting you access to information you have requested and giving you whatever assistance they can to permit you to carry out your survey.

I enclose copies of letters from the followings

Asbestos Corporation Limited,
Nicolet Industries, Inc.
Bell Asbestos Mines, Ltd.,
Lake Asbestos of Quebec, Ltd.
The Flintkote Company
National Asbestos Mines Limited
Sibourin & Sibourin, Attorneys for the
Association.

You also have permission from my company, including use of such information which may be helpful to you from Munro Mine at Matheson, Ontario and Advocate Mines Limited at Baie Verte, Newfoundland.

I hope the one company not yet heard from will give their approval soon.

Sincerely,

cc: Kenneth W. Smith, M.D. - New York
Paul Cartier, M.D. - Thetford Mines
H. J. Messel - President Q.A.N.A.
Ivan Sibourin, Q.C. - Dr. J. A. Vidal



THE FLINTKOTE COMPANY

EAST RUTHERFORD
NEW JERSEY

April 20, 1965

Mr. Karl V. Lindell
Chairman of the Board
Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Limited
Asbestos Fibre Division
P.O. Box 1500
Asbestos, Quebec

Dear Karl:

We have your letter of April 5, 1965, requesting clearance for Dr. J. C. McDonald to have access to the health records of past and present employees, which are on file with Dr. Paul Cartier at the Thetford Clinic. This clearance is given with the stipulation that in any reports or disclosures that no specific reference be made to Flintkote, nor should any specific disclosure be made of any condition of any Flintkote employee. If these stipulations are acceptable to Dr. McDonald, it will be in order for him to make arrangements through Mr. Hodgson at Thetford Mines.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

THE FLINTKOTE COMPANY


J. A. Main

JAM:hl

cc: Mr. H. P. Heubner	- New York
Mr. E. J. Weber, Jr.	- New York
Mr. R. J. Carlson	- Rutherford
Mr. H. E. Beard	- Rutherford
Mr. H. S. Jobbins	- Rutherford
Mr. F. P. Hodgson	- Thetford Mines
Ivan Sabourin, Q.C.	- St. Johns, Quebec
J. D. Moran	- New York

Sabourin & Sabourin

Avocats

SAINT-JEAN, QUÉ.

IVAN A. SABOURIN, B.C.L., C.R.
ROLAND P. SABOURIN, B.A., L.P.H., B.C.L.

Adressez réponse à
C.P. 186
S.V.P.

Telephone FI 7-2331

St. Johns, Que. April 8th, 1965.

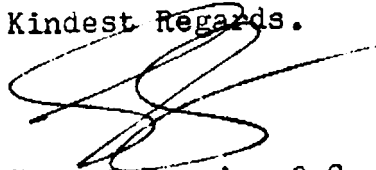
Mr. Karl V. Lindell,
Chairman of the Board,
Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd.,
Asbestos, Que.

Re: Survey of Dr. McDonald (I.P.M.)

Dear Karl,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 5th and recommend agreeing to the desires expressed by Dr. McDonald as they correspond to the understanding that I tacitly had, on behalf of the Association, with him at New York last Fall and since (this we confirmed together as a Committee of the Association recently when we met Dr. McDonald for the formation of the "Institute" in connection with pathology, etc. in the Asbestos Mining industry.)

Kindest Regards.


Ivan Sabourin, Q.C.

IS/lg

cc: Mr. A.L. Penhale,	Asbestos Corporation Ltd.
Mr. Geo. W. Smith,	Bell Asbestos Mines Ltd.
Mr. J.O. Eby,	Cdn Johns-Manville Co. Ltd.
Mr. E.A. Boadway,	Carey-Canadian Mines Ltd.
Mr. J.A. Main,	Flintkote Mines Ltd.
Mr. J. Messel,	Lake Asbestos of Quebec Ltd.
Mr. R.S. Coleman,	National Asbestos Mines Ltd.
Mr. P.A. Meyer,	Nicolet Industries Inc.
Dr. T.R. Grainger,	Cdn Johns-Manville Co. Ltd.
Dr. Paul Cartier,	Thetford Industrial Clinic.

NATIONAL ASBESTOS MINES LIMITED

NO PERSONAL LIABILITY

THETFORD MINES, QUEBEC, CANADA

P.O. BOX 459

R. S. COLEMAN

VICE-PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER

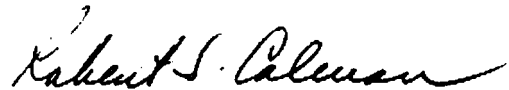
April 20, 1965.

Mr. Karl Lindell, Chairman of the Board,
Canadian Johns Manville Company Limited,
P.O. Box 1500,
Asbestos, Quebec.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of April 5, 1965 I wish to advise that this company is prepared to give Dr. MacDonald access to the records of past and present employees.

Yours Truly,
NATIONAL ASBESTOS MINES LTD



Robert S. Coleman,
Manager.

RSC/dt

cc: Dr. Paul Cartier,
Thetford Clinic.



MICHAEL J. MESSEL
PRESIDENT

LAKE ASBESTOS OF QUEBEC, LIMITED

SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY

BLACK LAKE, QUEBEC

April 28th, 1965.

Mr. K.V. Lindell, Chairman of the Board,
Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd.,
Asbestos, P.Q.

RE: Request of Dr. MacDonald.

Dear Karl:

This will acknowledge yours of April 5th
and we are willing to co-operate and give Dr. MacDonald
any data that may be of value to him in his studies
and I see no problem in him talking to the Union
while here.

Please have him contact Mr. Leopold Poulin
when he makes his visit.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Messel".

Michael J. Messel.

MJM:ss

BELL ASBESTOS MINES LTD.

P. O. BOX 99

THETFORD MINES, QUEBEC

CANADA

April 7-65

Mr. Karl V. Lindell
Chairman
Can. Johns-Manville Co.
P. O. Box 1500
Asbestos, Que.

Dear Mr. Lindell:

In reply to your letter of April 5th, this Company is agreeable to the information in question being given to Dr. MacDonald.

I am not certain as to the degree the Unions should be informed regarding this work.

You are of course aware of the work being done in England by the Asbestosis Research Council. Mr. J. Waddell is the member representing Turner & Newall on the Council and Mr. Bateman has advised me that they should be happy to give what help they can, by way of advice and information, from their side.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Smith

GWS:m



Cable Address:
NICOBEST, FLORHAM PARK

ASBESTOS FIBRE DIVISION
NICOLET AVENUE
FLORHAM PARK, NEW JERSEY

MINE LOCATION:
NORBESTOS (Via WARWICK)
QUEBEC, CANADA

Telephones:
FLORHAM PARK
Area Code 201
377-7100
NEW YORK CITY
ENTERPRISE 6128

April 14, 1965

Mr. Karl V. Lindell
Chairman of the Board
Canadian Johns-Manville Co., Limited
Asbestos Fibre Division
P. O. Box 1500
Asbestos, Quebec, Canada

Dear Karl:

This is in reply to your letter of April 5th with
enclosures.

Our company, Nicolet Asbestos Mines Ltd.,
approves giving Mr. McDonald the data he may request,
and we have instructed our mine management to cooper-
ate with him in every way possible.

Yours truly,

Phil Meyer
Philip A. Meyer
Vice President

PAM:ETH

ASBESTOS CORPORATION LIMITED

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
THETFORD MINES, QUE.

April 12, 1965.

Karl V. Lindell, Esq.,
Chairman of the Board,
Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd.,
P.O. Box 1500,
Asbestos, Que.

Dear Karl:

In response to your letter of April 5th, we are quite prepared to give Dr. McDonald whatever assistance we can in his survey of the health of workers in the asbestos mining industry.

I have written to Dr. Cartier along these lines, and I enclose a copy of my letter for your information.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



ALP/S
Encl.

April 12, 1965.

Dr. Paul Cartier,
Thetford Industrial Clinic Inc.,
Thetford Mines, Que.

Dear Dr. Cartier:

As you know, Dr. J.C. McDonald, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Health at McGill University, is conducting a survey of the health of workers in the asbestos mining industry.

He expects to spend a certain amount of time in Thetford and in Asbestos studying the data available, and I would appreciate it if you would arrange to give him full co-operation at the Thetford Industrial Clinic.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

ALP/S

A.L. Penhale

c.c. K.V. Lindell

DUPLICATE

Dr. H. W. Smith
Emergency info
May 1966

ASBESTOS RESEARCH UNIT *

(Department of Epidemiology and Health, McGill University)

Progress Report I

This report summarizes the work of the unit from its foundation on October 1st 1966 until November 30th 1966. The work may be considered under three main headings:-

1. Staff and equipment

The following persons joined the scientific staff of the unit on October 1st:-
C.E. Rossiter, M.A., statistician, from the M.R.C. Pneumoconiosis Research Unit, S. Wales
Gisèle Fournier, M.D., M.Sc., pulmonary physiologist, M.R.C. Fellow, from Sherbrooke University.
M.J. Ball, M.B., D.P.H., epidemiologist (part-time), from staff of department.
T.E. Wood, M.D., M.Sc., pulmonary physiologist (part-time), from the Royal Victoria Hospital.

In addition, a records clerk is now employed in Montreal and 4 clerks are at work in Asbestos or Thetford. On January 1st 1967, Mr G.W. Gibbs, an industrial hygienist from the M.R.C. Air Pollution Research Unit, London, will join the unit part-time and it is hoped that two respiratory function technicians will also start work on that date. The unit will then be nearly at full-strength and thereafter staff changes will be made mainly to meet the continually altering nature of the unit's work.

Orders for the apparatus needed for pulmonary function tests were placed as soon as the grant was approved in August; most of it has now been received and it is hoped that it will be complete and calibrated in time to begin field work on April 1st.

2. Survey of mine workers

a) Preliminary arrangements. A series of meetings were held during October in Asbestos and Thetford Mines with representatives of the employers and the unions. Few

* Supported by the QAMA Institute of Occupational & Environmental Health.

serious difficulties were encountered and assurance of help and good will was obtained from both parties after much less delay than I had feared. These meetings terminated in a press conference and some publicity in the Quebec papers from which there have been no serious repercussions. Success in these important preliminary stages was due in great measure to the efforts and ability of Dr Gisèle Fournier.

b) Personal records. A start has been made on the considerable task of collecting personal details and work-history for all past and present employees. Good progress is being made and to date records for 7,204 of about 25,000 have been collected but this speed can not be maintained as the remainder are more difficult. Record cards have been designed and ordered and eventually all information - work and exposure, follow up, radiological findings and function test results - will be entered. By March it is hoped that a sufficiently complete register will be available to allow sampling of the population by age and years of employment, for function tests.

It will not be possible to make much progress with the follow-up of past employees until the full register has been completed. Dr M.J. Ball, who is in charge of this aspect of the work, expects to have collected relevant information by then from a) the Braun and Truan records in Pittsburgh; b) life and accident insurance companies; c) company pension records, and d) union records. After consolidation of all this data, the real task can begin.

c) Chest X-rays. With the help of Dr Cartier and Dr Grainger, the most recent film is being taken from each employee's dossier and put in one of two classes according to whether or not any abnormality had been noted. A competent independent radiologist will then be asked to review the "normal" films and put back in the "abnormal" series any on which he has any doubts. The resultant abnormal series will be ready for whatever detailed radiological classification it is decided to use. We would like to use a schema which will be both acceptable internationally and appropriate for asbestos workers but we must have this by June 1967 or our work will be held up.

d) Function tests. Dr Wood and Dr Fournier, in consultation with Dr Margaret

Becklake, are giving thought to the choice of tests to be used. Between April and October 1967, a stratified representative sample of current employees will be examined using tests which for practical reasons cannot occupy more than about one hour per man. The tests will have to be carried out close to the working place and we are still not sure whether this can be done without a mobile laboratory which would be difficult and expensive to obtain. During the summer of 1968, further and perhaps more elaborate tests may be undertaken choosing men for examination in the light of the considerably greater knowledge we expect to have by then of exposure, radiological changes, etc.

e) Dust exposure. The significance of each job in the various mines and mills, year by year, in terms of dust conditions and physical effort has to be determined. This problem will be assigned to Mr G.W. Gibbs who joins the unit in January. He will be asked to use all available records but may find it necessary to undertake certain environmental measurements himself.

3. Mesothelioma survey

The way has now been cleared with the two main parties interested - the National Cancer Institute and the National Steering Committee on Asbestos and Health - for the unit to undertake the epidemiological study of known cases of pleural mesothelioma in Canada. Some initial efforts were made by the National Steering Committee over a year ago to have cases notified but unfortunately little more has been done and the series of 20 or so cases reported is clearly far from complete. As a result of further discussion in Ottawa we are now able to take the initiative in this matter and plan to circularize all Canadian pathologists fairly soon in an effort to get a more complete list. It may be possible to supplement this using data held by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the provincial tumour registrars. Detailed inquiries will eventually be made to determine the occupational, social and personal history of cases of mesothelioma and of a control series appropriately chosen.

Conclusion

The unit has made reasonably good progress during its first two months and foreseen difficulties do not appear unsurmountable.

G.C. Macdonald
5/12/66