

Chicago, October 15th, 1937

Mr. H. B. Voorhees:

Referring to your two letters dated Sept. 21st, file 1-838, having reference to your previous letters of July 14th and August 28th:

Your letter of August 23rd handing me GMA Circular 2680 covers the same subject as the report you sent me with yours of July 14th except that the report contained in GMA Circular 2680 embodies the latest revisions of recommendations in connection with the Illinois Occupational Diseases Act with respect to rules and instructions for the prevention of asbestosis, silicosis and lead poisoning respectively.

For ready reference I attach copy of my joint letter dated February 15th addressed to all concerned on the B&OCT and Alton, with copy to the supervision, concerning this subject and handed them a copy of two sheets setting forth recommendations covering rules and instructions to be observed for the prevention of silicosis and asbestosis, from which you will note they were handed those addressed for their personal information and were not to be posted or given out but those addressed were to see that the employees are properly protected while performing the various classifications of work enumerated therein.

Within the next week we will have completed a survey of all engine-houses, shops and car departments on the B&OCT and Alton from which we have drawn a floor plan of each enginehouse, shop, etc., indicating thereon the exact location of each machine, such as emery wheels, furnaces, whether coke, oil or gas-fired, babbitt furnaces, wood working machines, etc., also paint spraying facilities, sandblasting facilities, etc., from which prints will be made and a complete set furnished Mr. Chinn, chairman of the Railway Engineers and Shop Committee, as requested in GMA circular 2603. Will send you a set of these prints for your information and file.

When a complete set of these prints is available I will then delegate one man, preferably chemical engineer Saniff, to visit each engine-house, shop and car department and thoroughly familiarize the supervision and each employee performing the work that might involve asbestosis, silicosis or lead poisoning, after which I will give you my final report and recommendations in the event it is found that we should do something more in the way of providing additional protection for the employees performing the various classes of work which subject them to the hazards of silica, asbestos or lead dust, and expect to have the entire matter completed within the next thirty days.

C. J. House

CME