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MEDICAL FINDINGS ON
PITTSBURGH - CORNING CO.
TYLER, TEXAS

A preliminary evaluation of the medical data collected on employees of the Pittsburgh-Corning Co., Tyler, Texas, by the East Texas Chest Hospital, in August, 1971 and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in October, 1971 have shown the existence of some serious health hazards. The data collected by members of the NIOSH team consisted of establishing the ~~existence~~ presence of certain signs consistent with Asbestosis, these being dyspnea, rales, and finger clubbing. By use of a questionnaire, a smoking history and occupational history was also taken on each employee currently working at the Plant, giving a total of 63 persons all male. The data from the East Texas Chest Hospital gave an evaluation of the individual pulmonary function status and included 11" by 14" chest X-rays, although not classified by the UICC code on pneumonoconiosis. As a result of the survey, it was found that of those employees with ten (10) years employment or over, 38.9% meet the criteria for Asbestosis, with an overall plant rate of 11.1% meeting the criteria for asbestosis.

To support a diagnosis of Asbestosis an individual must meet three of the following criteria:

1) X-ray with a profusion of 1/0 or greater according to UICC classification on pneumonoconiosis (positive).
2) Dyspnea - grade 2 or 3: according to a 0-3 scale, 0 ~~measuring~~ meaning no breathlessness. ~~(breathlessness)~~.
3) Rales - present or persistent
4) Finger-clubbing - ~~195% or greater~~
5) FVC/PFVC - less than 80% .

In the case of the results presented above our diagnosis could only be made using four (4) of the criteria, since there has been some delay on the part of the company physician in releasing the X-rays taken by the East Texas Chest

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Hospital for evaluation using the UICC classification on pneumoconiosis. However, the X-ray results can only support our findings and could even give us a greater number of people meeting the criteria for Asbestosis.

We are also concerned about nine (9) additional employees on which we were unable to obtain complete medical results ~~on~~, since they no longer are employed by the plant. Three of these individuals definitely had depressed pulmonary function results and should be followed up with further medical tests to determine any effects which may be due to Asbestos.