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R. L. Logan - 26

Jon L. Konzen, M.D.

November 10, 1970

CLARENCE BOREL - ASBESTOSIS

I have reviewed the King, Sharfstein & Rienstra letter of November 4, 1970, below are my comments.

From the data presented in the letter it is reasonable that this individual has (1) asbestosis and (2) mesothelioma. This diagnosis was arrived at by the attending physician by considering the environment history, physical findings, laboratory data and post operative pathological examination data.

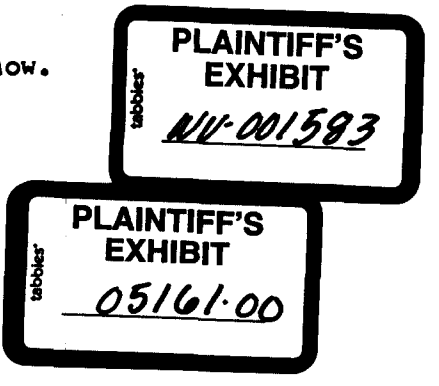
There are two items which I take exception to in this letter. One is that the so-called asbestos or ferruginous bodies is the cause of fibrosis. Asbestos bodies simply indicate that a man has been exposed to fibrous substances. In this case, it is probably reasonable to assume that these fibers were asbestos. The incidence of mesothelioma appears to be higher in asbestos workers than in the general population. To my knowledge there is not a direct relationship between asbestosis and mesothelioma although both conditions are related to excessive asbestos inhalation.

The threshold limit values which are merely guidelines with regard to reasonable working conditions do not preclude the development of asbestos in some individuals even though the levels apparently have not been exceeded.

Practical experience has demonstrated that insulation workers who have worked in the trade for many years were frequently exposed to high concentrations of asbestos fiber.

In summary, this individual appears to have asbestosis and mesothelioma which would be related to his work environment.

If you have any questions or comments please let me know.



JLK:mgm