

Culpepper

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
DUP-1851

January 11, 1980

TO: J. WOODRICK
FROM: W. M. BRANAN

This revision contains changes by A. T. Gentilucci and myself to accommodate G. F. Curtin's recommendations. I don't think we've changed what you want to say - only a little bit of how you say it. If you agree, we'll start it by Walker, Curtin, Yelton/Ruppe. Let me know this p.m. if possible.

DUP 0811030

DU 009558

STATEMENT TO EMPLOYEES

STATUS OF VICTORIA PLANT CANCER STUDIES

The purpose of this memo is to report to you updated findings in the Medical Division's continuing study of cancer among Victoria Plant employees, and to share some general observations on the causes of cancer by today's medical authorities.

GENERAL

Although all the causes of cancer are not known, the following information on the very important role that lifestyle plays in its occurrence may be of interest to you.

During the last 10 years researchers have concluded that 80-90 percent of all cancers are caused by environmental factors that include the air we breathe, the food we eat, the things we drink as well as where we live and work. Some researchers believe that as much as 75% of new cancer cases are related to our eating, smoking and drinking habits. The National Cancer Institute says that as much as 40% of cancer in males and 60% in females may be related to diet -- an excess of meat and other fatty foods and too many calories.

Cigarette smoking is also considered a serious cause. The American Cancer Society believes as much as 80% of lung cancer can be attributed to smoking cigarettes while the National Cancer Institute says that some 30-50% of male deaths from cancer of the esophagus, kidney, bladder and pancreas have been shown to be related to smoking.

Radiation, mostly from sunlight, is estimated by the National Cancer Institute to account for about 8%.

VICTORIA STUDIES

Du Pont's Wilmington Medical Division, has for several years, been examining Victoria employee cancer cases to determine if there are any links between cancer and employee work environment. It has been our policy to inform you of results when they become available. A memo was issued on September 8, 1976, describing the results of a study of incidence of cancer among all active Victoria Plant employees over the 19 year period from 1956 through 1974. This memo updates these results and reports on an additional study.

DUP 0811031

An updated study of cancer incidence rates among active, male, Victoria Plant employees shows no significant difference between the overall cancer incidence rate at Victoria and the average incidence rate for the Du Pont Company. A similar study of death rates from cancer among male, active, pensioned, and transferred Victoria Plant employees shows the same results. The study of cancer death rates also shows that there are no significant differences between overall rates in the Victoria Plant group and those for Victoria County. However, both studies did show an excess rate of brain cancer among male, salary roll employees compared to average Du Pont Company experience. This observation had been previously reported to you in our memo of 1976. As we reported then, we have reviewed the work histories of the three individuals included in this study who have contracted brain cancer and have found no reason to suspect that there were any occupational factors which contributed to these cancer cases. The three individuals worked in accounting and patrol jobs. There have been no cases of cancer reported among female employees at Victoria.

We are also aware of three additional cases of brain cancer, two occurring among former employees who left employment without a pension, and another occurring in a current employee. We have not identified any specific occupational factor which could have contributed to these three cases. We plan to continue our study and close surveillance of the incidence of this and other types of cancer among Victoria Plant employees.

Because of the interest that the National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH) has shown in the occurrence of brain cancer in the Tangle Cliff area, we are reporting our own cancer experience to them.

CANCER INCIDENCE, ACTIVE EMPLOYEES, 1956-1977

The initial study of cancer incidence among active Victoria Plant employees has been updated through 1977. These statistics are based on cancer diagnoses reported through Du Pont Accident and Health Claims. There were 24 cases of cancer in the group studied compared to 21.0 expected from Du Pont Company experience. The number of cases would have to have been at least 31 for the difference between the observed number and the expected number to be statistically significant. There were 14 cases among wage roll employees compared to an expected number of 9.8 and a minimum number of 16 for the difference between observed and expected to be statistically significant.

A breakdown of the cancer cases according to primary site of the cancer again shows an excess number of brain cancer cases among male salary roll employees. There were 3 brain cancer cases in this group, compared to an expected number of 0.4 based on company experience and a minimum number of 3 for the difference between observed and expected to be statistically significant. These are the same 3 cases reported in 1976 in the initial study. The work histories of the individuals involved have been reviewed in detail. These people had very little contact with the operating areas and hence a cause and effect relationship with chemical operations seems unlikely.

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A summary of the data from this study is shown in Table I.

CANCER MORTALITY, VICTORIA PLANT ACTIVE, PENSIONED, AND TRANSFERRED
MALE EMPLOYEES, 1957-1978

To further investigate the cancer experience of our plant we have also analyzed deaths among active Victoria Plant employees, pensioners, and transferees from 1957-1978. In this study, death from all causes as well as from cancer among male active, pensioned and transferred Victoria Plant employees were compared to Company-wide and Victoria County cancer mortality. Deaths from all causes in the group studied were less than expected compared to Du Pont Company experience (55 vs. 66.9) as well as Victoria County experience (55 vs. 90.5).

There were 17 cancer deaths compared to 15.1 expected from Company experience and 15.0 expected from Victoria County experience. For both Company and County comparisons, the number of cancer deaths would have to have been at least 23 for the difference between observed and expected to be statistically significant. There were 8 cancer deaths among male wage roll employees compared to an expected number of 6.6 based on Company experience and a minimum number of 12 for the difference between observed and expected to be statistically significant. There were 9 cancer deaths among male salary roll employees compared to an expected number of 8.5 based on Company experience and a minimum number of 15 for the difference between observed and expected to be statistically significant.

A breakdown of cancer deaths according to primary cancer site shows an excess number of brain cancer deaths among male salary roll employees. These are the same three brain cancer cases reported in the cancer incidence study summarized above. The 3 brain cancer deaths in this study compare to an expected number of 0.5 based on Company experience and a minimum number of 3 for the difference between observed and expected to be statistically significant.

A summary of the data from this study is shown in Table II.

FOLLOW-UP

We are also aware of three additional cases of brain cancer, two occurring among former employees who left employment without a pension, and another occurring in a current employee. We have not identified any specific occupational factors which could have

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contributed to these brain cancer cases. Nevertheless, we plan to continue our study and close surveillance of the incidence of this and other types of cancer among Victoria Plant employees.

Toward this end, we have expanded the cancer mortality study to include former employees along with active employees, pensioners, and transferees. This study, like previous studies, will be conducted by Wilmington Medical, and because of its magnitude and complexity will require about two years to complete. In keeping with our policy I will inform you of the results of the study when it is complete.

We will continue to take whatever steps are required to see that no one suffers any harm to their health from exposure in our operations. You are encouraged to discuss any questions you have with your supervisor, Plant Medical, or the Plant Occupational Health Coordinator (Jim Kayser, 1397).

Because of the interest that the National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH) has shown in the occurrence of brain cancer in the Texas Gulf area, we are reporting our own cancer experience to them.

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