



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19140

OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES
May 1, 1974

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RECEIVED
MAY 3 1974
A. K. McMillan

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MAY 3 1974

R. FLEMING, V. E.

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MAY 3 1974

A. K. McMILLAN

Dear Dick:

The trip to Pensacola was an informative one, both during my visit to the plant and my session with Dr. Beidelman. Dr. Beidelman is both alert and sensitive, and the plant personnel are in very competent hands. I feel that any possible complication that might arise as a result of VCM exposure will be detected in conformity with sound principles of occupational and preventive medicine.

Insofar as Paducah is concerned I am anxiously awaiting results of the retesting of those employees with abnormal laboratory findings so that a meeting with Dr. Blalock can be arranged. This certainly will be early in May, I hope, so that protocols for those cases requiring continuing work-up can be developed. I anticipate it will mean another trip to Paducah, at which time I will plan to meet with Dr. Colburn again if you or Jack Kramer thinks it advisable. On my last visit to Paducah I did suggest the possibility of our getting together in the future if the circumstances warranted it.

The matter of physicians for the Middlesex and Trexlertown facilities is very much on my mind now, and as I indicated to Marty my last irrevocable commitment to Temple ends Thursday, May 2, when the budget hearings for the University before the House and Senate Appropriations Committee in Harrisburg will be complete. In the same vein I will be meeting with Dr. Kushner this weekend at which time I will do my very best to convince him to assume a consultant's role with APCI. For the record, last Saturday (April 27), Firestone Rubber Company, Pottstown, phoned Kushner in an attempt to recruit him as a major consultant for their corporation. Despite his refusal to them, I feel I can convince him to fill my shoes. I am well aware that you are a stickler for target dates and goal setting, so let me set Thursday, May 2, as the very latest for achieving the identification of physicians and, hopefully, the conversion of Dr. Kushner.

AP00035039

Richard Fleming

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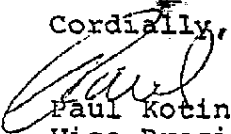
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In the normal course of events I would put the following items in an official report to you; however, I felt it best to incorporate my thoughts in this letter. My trip through the Pensacola plant led to the following concerns:

1. The bagging operation was if anything no better or perhaps slightly worse than that in Calvert. I recognize that bagging is a dirty operation; however, this I believe makes superior vigilance in housekeeping even more imperative. Polymer dust had accumulated at all levels-floors, sills, tops of machinery, and at heights equal to the rafters. The higher levels of deposition are of special concern because, in contrast to spillage, they reflect airborne particles which can remain suspended in the air for hours to days.
2. One of the reactors was being manually cleaned by a workman with gauntlet gloves which were partially rolled back; he was also wearing his own regular work shoes. Although he was wearing a mask, I could not really assess its level of protection and it was not on a supplied air line.
3. Except for this man I saw no one wearing any masks, even though all employees in the VC plant appeared to have free access to all parts of the plant as I did. The use of masks by visitors or occasional entrants in all areas immediately surrounding the various steps in the manufacture of VC should, I believe, be likened to the wearing of hard hats in construction areas, a requirement for all.
4. The quality control and analytical labs in most industries somehow manage to escape scrutiny and therefore may be sites of unmonitored exposure. Hoods, portable or built-in, must be required because of the potential hazard from normal operation, to say nothing of accidental spillage or monomer escape.

You will most likely be hearing from me the middle of next week. In the interim, all good wishes.

Cordially,


Paul Kotin, M.D.
Vice President

Enclosure

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