FILE NAME: DuPont (DUP)

DATE: 1966 June 2

DOC#: DUP034

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Dr. Arthur Stevenson from G.J. Stopps

Exhibit No. 15
on the examination of:
C.J. STOPPS ..... in
..... v .....
held on DEC 6 83
File: C-0027 (227)
PAUL W. ROSENBERGER
Special Examiner
at TORONTO

June 2, 1966

DR. ARTHUR C. STEVENSON, DIRECTOR
ELASTOMER CHEMICALS DEPARTMENT
ELASTOMERS LABORATORY

Dr. Zapp has passed your letter referring to the health hazards of asbestos to me for a reply.

That asbestos fibers can cause chronic pulmonary disease has been recognized since 1907 and with this recognition came control measures aimed at reducing the amount of dust produced during the mining of the crude mineral and its subsequent conversion into finished products. Combined with the measures aimed at reducing the amount of dust were steps to prevent the dust that was produced from being inhaled. This meant the wearing of dust respirators.

What has caused renewed concern over the hazards of asbestos has been the finding of an apparent link between some types of cancer and exposure to asbestos fiber. This link has been demonstrated, not in the trades usually thought of as stituting the "asbestos industry" where dust control methods have been in use ... years, but in such occupations as insulation workers and pipe coverers.

There are three factors which are disquieting about these new health problems surrounding the use of asbestos. Firstly, the possible association between cancer and asbestos, naturally is a matter for concern, secondly, such evidence as there is ...s to an "incubation" period which may be as long as forty years and thirdly, there is some rather fragmentary evidence that short exposures to apparently small amounts of asbestos fiber may produce cancer many years later. At this time our knowledge is insufficient to answer the question "what is the smallest amount of dust and the shortest exposure that might produce cancer?" From a practical point of view if the dust does not gain access to the body there will be no problem, therefore, dust respirators will protect the personnel wearing them.

Operations which produce asbestos dust should be designed so that the dust is contained and exhausted into a system that will prevent re-entrainment of the asbestos fibers.

Customers should be advised that there is some hazard associated with working with asbestos and that strict dust control measures must be taken. If personnel will unavoidably be exposed to asbestos dust, they should wear dust respirators.

R-2564

In some cases perhaps other fibers such as glass could be used in place of asbestos.

In attempting to warn people of the health hazards of asbestos I have been handicapped by the immumerable uses of the mineral so that it becomes very difficult to locate groups such as yours that are working with the material. Should you know of other such groups I should be grateful if you would let me know of them.

If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
C. J. STOPPS

C. J. Stopps, M.B., B.S.
Chief, Physiology Section

CJS/jtd

1.1.2

B360