

cc: J. R. Gibson, Adm.  
R. J. Lombardo  
A. B. Palmer  
D. M. Humanick, Chambers Works



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19893

CHEMICALS AND PIGMENTS DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

APR 22 1981

April 21, 1981

Burford W. Culpepper, M.D.

B. W. CULPEPPER, M.D.  
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

X-RAY READING - QUALITY STANDARDS

The attached letter from A. B. Palmer summarizes the two concerns I discussed with you last week.

For 1981, there is an increased rate of detection of abnormalities by X-Ray Associates for Wilmington area sites that does not appear to parallel any likely increase in pulmonary pathology. Indeed, we have at least two cases where pulmonary specialists do not confirm recently reported x-ray findings. — *to be expected*

- We are concerned that, if we are accepting insignificant findings, we may needlessly be incurring financial liability. *increasingly acceptable result of*

An examination of data from some of our older plants indicates an exceptionally low level of reported abnormalities. Grasselli, Cleveland, East Chicago and Memphis together found only two abnormalities in their high risk groups of 1000, compared with about 25 each for the same size groups at Edge Moor and Newport.

- Are the radiologists for these (and other) sites applying sufficiently critical standards? *We must assume so.*

We would like to suggest a round-robin rating, according to a fixed standard -- say ILO Grade 1, or any other you suggest, of about 15 selected x-rays which has been previously read both by radiologists for high incidence sites and for low incidence sites. If any problems are found, we can assess what steps to take -- or even arrange for centralized review. — *not practical*

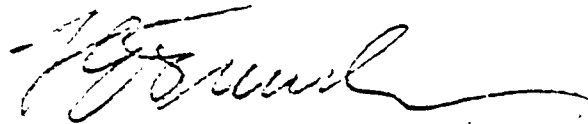
It would seem desirable that the mathematical criteria for the comparison be determined by the epidemiology section to ensure statistical significance. Furthermore, it would seem desirable that the group of radiologists include, in addition to X-Ray Associates, such well-known laboratories as those at the University Hospitals of Pennsylvania, Cincinnati and Vanderbilt.

DUP 1153951

DU 062179

- In view of the forthcoming extension of our screening program, I feel a particular sense of urgency in obtaining assurances of quality control standards for our x-ray readers. *ingratitude*

C&P will be glad to cooperate in the selection of x-rays for screening. Because of our unique position in relation to this problem, we have a major interest in the outcome. Perhaps you could discuss Medical Division's reaction at the next meeting of the Asbestos Coordinating Committee.



F. E. FRENCH

FEF:jcc  
Attach.

DUP 1153952

DU 062180



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY  
INCORPORATED  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

CHEMICALS AND PIGMENTS DEPARTMENT

April 20, 1981

F. E. FRENCH

ASBESTOS-RELATED ABNORMALITIES

The four C&P sites in the Delaware Valley are experiencing a marked increase in the number of x-ray abnormalities reported by X-ray Associates. As discussed, it would be timely to review the reason for this increase with Medical and to have them determine if X-ray Associates are using appropriate criteria and these criteria are the same as used by other radiologists.

Attachment I is a comparison of the number of abnormalities reported by the Delaware Valley sites by year. The rate of discovery is up substantially from 1980: 170% at Chambers Works, 440% at Edge Moor. It should be noted that many of these were read as normal in 1980 and that the radiologists also report there has been "no change" from previous x-rays so that it is unlikely that the condition has progressed.

Attachment II shows the results of the asbestos screening program except for the unit plants which data is not yet available. It appears from this that we still need to find an explanation for the high numbers in the Delaware Valley compared to the rest of the County. As pointed out above, the first step would be to insure that there is reasonably uniform reading of x-rays by the contract radiologists.

*al*  
A. B. PALMER

AEF/bat  
Att.

DUP 1153953

DU 062181

Attachment 1

Asbestos-Related Abnormalities and Illnesses

| <u>Site</u>    | <u>Findings</u>     | <u>Period</u> |             |                | <u>Discovery<br/>Rate 1981<br/>vs 1980</u> |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                |                     | <u>1979</u>   | <u>1980</u> | <u>10 1980</u> |                                            |
| Chambers Works | Abnormalities       | 47            | 136         | 59             | 1.7                                        |
|                | Benign asymptomatic | 10            | 45          | 37             | 3.3                                        |
|                | Benign symptomatic  | 14            | 11          | 3              |                                            |
| Recaunc        | Abnormalities       | 31            | 26          | 16             | 2.5                                        |
|                | Benign asymptomatic | 21            | 11          | 7              | 2.5                                        |
|                | Benign symptomatic  | 8             | 2           | 0              |                                            |
| Edge Moor      | Abnormalities       | 9             | 9           | 10             | 4.4                                        |
|                | Benign asymptomatic | 0             | 3           | 8              | 10.7                                       |
|                | Benign symptomatic  | 0             | 1           | 1              |                                            |
| Newport        | Abnormalities       | 5             | 10          | 7              | 2.8                                        |
|                | Benign asymptomatic | -             | 6           | 3              | 6.0                                        |
|                | Benign symptomatic  | 1             | 1           | 0              |                                            |

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Chemicals and Pigments Department

Asbestos-Related Cases  
(1972 to 3/31/81)

| <u>Site</u>    | <u>Abnormal<br/>X-Rays</u> | <u>Diagnosis<br/>Incomplete</u> | <u>Du Pont Exposure</u>        |                               | <u>Non-Du Pont<br/>or No Known<br/>Exposure</u> | <u>No. Year<br/>Reviewed</u> |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                |                            |                                 | <u>Benign<br/>Asymptomatic</u> | <u>Benign<br/>Symptomatic</u> |                                                 |                              |
| Chambers Works | 242                        | 77                              | 92                             | 28                            | 45                                              | 5,500                        |
| Rebald         | 73                         | 22                              | 39                             | 10                            | 2                                               | 970                          |
| Edge Moor      | 28                         | 9                               | 11                             | 2                             | 6                                               | 200                          |
| Newport        | 22                         | 7                               | 9                              | 2                             | 4                                               | 200                          |
| Cellisle       | 20                         | 1                               | 0                              | 1                             | 19                                              | 2,000                        |
| Niagara Falls  | 13                         | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 13                                              | 2,000                        |
| Consonville    | 12                         | 5                               | 7                              | 0                             | 0                                               | 2,000                        |
| Deer Park      | 2                          | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 2                                               | 200                          |
| James River    | 2                          | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 2                                               | 200                          |
| Memphis        | 1                          | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 1                                               | 200                          |
| East Chicago   | 1                          | 0                               | 1                              | 0                             | 0                                               | 200                          |
| Cleveland      | 0                          | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 0                                               | 200                          |
| Chattanooga    | 0                          | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 0                                               | 200                          |
| Florida        | 0                          | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 0                                               | 200                          |
| Worthington    | 0                          | 0                               | 0                              | 0                             | 0                                               | 200                          |
| Totals         | 414                        | 119                             | 159                            | 42                            | 93                                              | 11,000                       |

LEB  
4-20-81

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