

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

DOW-2942



THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

TEXAS DIVISION
FREEPORT TEXAS 77541

May 13, 1968

R. L. Buell
B-1201

RE: Insulators

We have done annual periodic examinations on the insulators since 1960. The examination is directed primarily to the lungs and consists of chest x-rays, ventilatory measurements (pulmonary function) hematocrit, ECG, and examination of heart and lungs by a physician.

The concern of the Union about the welfare of their men is a just one and has come about probably because of the wave of cases that has hit the medical literature recently. The incidence of the usual type lung cancer is much higher in asbestos workers who smoke - the smoking and asbestos exposure seem to be additive. There is an unusual type of cancer effecting the lining of the chest and abdominal cavities called mesothelioma which is due to asbestos exposure. Any asbestosis worker's death due to mesothelioma would be considered due to asbestos exposure until proven otherwise.

I appreciate Mr. Kinsel's concern about whether the insulators are being examined periodically but I gather from the tone of his letter that he is not concerned from a humanitarian viewpoint.

As a matter of interest one of the union agents for the insulators stated he heard a talk by a physician at a union meeting which seemed out of place judging from the words of this union agent. The talk seemed to be a scare-type talk and was either misinterpreted by the audience or misinformation was given out.

I hope this may be of help to you.

R. E. Flake
R. E. Flake, M. D.
Industrial Medicine

REF:mfr

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