

HCL/MW
8.6.73.



Mr. Matthew M. Swetonic,
Asbestos Information Association/North America,
22, East 40th Street,
NEW YORK,
N.Y. 10016.
U.S.A.

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your letter of 5th June, 1973 and for
arranging accommodation for me in New York in August.

I have read Dr. Selikoff's talk with interest. I would
prefer to reserve comment until Steve Holmes returns
from holiday in Germany in two weeks time and I have
the opportunity of talking it over with him.

Mr. Sabourin has already been on the 'phone to us about
it and Dr. Pelnar wrote me a 'worried note'. I have sent
Dr. Pelnar copies of my correspondence with Selikoff on this
subject and am certain that he would let you have photo-
copies if necessary.

I did not attempt to vindicate or refute the standard in my
paper, but merely to outline our medical surveillance
techniques with some PRELIMINARY results. The significant
fact is that asbestosis as diagnosed by the Panels, where all
criteria have been fulfilled, has been reduced from a group
incidence of 26% in 1950 to about 1% in 1968 under the 1931
Regulations. The 1969 Regulations are more stringent and have
set a standard for application for the first time. It will be
many years before the adequacy of the standard can be judged
and at present it remains the best available standard. We are
concerned about the criticism levelled at the standard as the
information was provided by this Company. We are planning
an extensive review of our information and hope to have it
performed with the aid of the Pneumoconiosis Research Unit and
once more under the auspices of the B.O.H.S. The P.R.U. have
promised help but the B.O.H.S. has not yet been approached to
reconvene the sub-committee on chrysotile asbestos.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

H.C. LEWINGSON, M.B. B.Ch. D.I.H.
Chief Medical Officer

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