UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

MINING AND METALS DIVISION • P. O. BOX K, KING CITY, CALIFORNIA 93930

To (Name) Messrs: J. F. Emerson
Division W. C. Thurber
Location

Date March 26, 1976

Originating Dept.

Answering letter date

Copy to

Subject

Attached you will find copies of newspaper articles, a letter from Dr. Hyde of the Medical Clinic, and my letter to E. A. Piersall and Dr. J. J. Welsh, for your information concerning a problem we now have at King City.

To give you some background - our physical exams are done at the Southern Monterey County Medical Group Clinic in King City. Anyone of several doctors are used both for our exams and any accident/emergency, on the job, cases we have. This has not been a satisfactory arrangement.

1. The doctors have little or no apparent interest in company problems - safety etc. - or needs;

2. We are unable most times to get information concerning occupational cases from the case doctor;

3. In the past, physical exam results, in cases where problems have been determined, have not been communicated to the employees by the doctors.

Dr. Welsh has talked to the Medical Group on several occasions concerning the service we expect - the last time in January of this year. That time he reviewed the x-rays and lung function test results on four (4) of our employees whom the clinic doctors had reported showing symptoms of obstructive lung disease. I believe he requested, at the time, that employees be notified of this by doctors in these cases.

Following Dr. Welsh's request, and the publishing of the newspaper articles, the letter attached was sent to Jim Stanford and we have been notified that another employee, George Larson, will receive a similar letter. In both cases we were phone at the plant and told these employees should be removed from the asbestos environment. We are now in a bad situation. We have no jobs which would remove these employees from the asbestos environment. Dr. Welsh had concluded that neither of these men showed any signs of trouble

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from asbestos. However, he did recommend scheduling them for x-ray and lung function tests at a 9 mont interval rather than the normal yearly exam.

As a result of Dr. Welsh's visit in January, he recommended complete physical exams for all employees annually and the employment of a doctor from the clinic group on a part time, fee for service, basis so that he would do most of the physicals and would review those done by someone else. I think the latter is the only chance we have to improve our medical situation.

I have not explored the cost of a doctor on this basis but will estimate the cost will be $900 - $1000./month. Present costs for physical examinations are $3100./year. Following Dr. Welsh's recommendation of a complete physical for each employee annually would increase this amount of $4500./year.

I recommend that we retain a doctor's services and will proceed with this course of action if you concur.

Very truly yours,

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
METALS DIVISION

F. H. Larrison, Jr.
Manager, King City Operations

/smp

encls:

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