



Shell Oil Company
Interoffice Memorandum

File
79C-01-00F
Asbestos Study

JANUARY 4, 1990

FROM: STAFF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST, PRODUCTS HEALTH & SAFETY
TO: SEE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST
SUBJECT: RECORDKEEPING OF ASBESTOS-RELATED ILLNESSES

Recordkeeping Guidelines

In June 1989 an expanded HS&E Procedures for Injury and Illness Recordkeeping was issued for use by field locations. It described the recommended approach to recording asbestos-related illnesses.

Corporate Medical is conducting an ongoing review of chest X-rays having changes consistent with asbestos-related illness. A number of these cases are recordable. The following will assist uniform recordkeeping of these cases.

- When Corporate Medical confirms a finding of asbestos-related disease, locations will be notified in writing.
- Such diagnoses are to be recorded in Column 7b on the log sheet ("Dust diseases of the lung"). [See HS&E Procedure, page 5.]
- For active employees, the case should be logged on: 1) the date of initial diagnosis, or 2) if absence from work occurred before diagnosis, the first day of the absence attributable to that illness. [Rationale is based on the back of the OSHA 200 log sheet, page 9 of BLS-86, and page 5 of the HS&E Procedure.]

For most cases, the confirmation by Corporate Medical will represent the date of initial diagnosis. It is Corporate Medical's opinion that generally a prior X-ray alone would not constitute initial diagnosis. However, there may be situations where a diagnosis had been rendered previously (and documented in the medical file), but not recorded on the log.

- For retired or terminated employees (where the illness is discovered within five years of retirement or termination), the date of posting would be "the date of initial diagnosis, last date of employment if the date of diagnosis is not known, or the first date of absence from work attributable to the illness -- whichever is earliest". [See pages 23 and 30, B-4 of BLS.]

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EXHIBIT**

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Corporate Medical indicates that their review of chest X-rays will continue into mid-1990.

Additional Information

While comparisons between locations are difficult to make due to differences in the number of asbestos program participants, and the status of submitting X-rays to Corporate Medical for review, the following observations may be of interest.

- At the end of 1988 there were a total of 1,577 employees "ever" in the Shell Asbestos Medical Surveillance Program.
- Of the 1,577 employees there were 1,117 active employees in the program. The great majority of these employees were from Manufacturing (1,000+), with DPMC having the largest number of participants (600+).
- Approximately 135 X-rays were identified by B readers for further review by Corporate Medical.
- Of 112 X-rays reviewed through December 13, 1989, 56 were highlighted for recording on the OSHA log.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Number X-rays Reviewed by CM</u>	<u>X-rays Confirmed by CM*</u>
Norco	17	8
Deer Park	16	13
Sewaren	1	1
Belpre	3	1
Wood River	29	9
Anacortes	-	-
Martinez	44	24
Odessa	-	-
Wilmington	2	-
Taft	-	-
Geismar	-	-
Metairie	-	-
As of 12/13/89:	112	56

* X-rays were found to support a finding of unilateral or bilateral pleural plaques, pleural calcification, possible pleural plaque(s), or asbestosis or possible asbestosis.

If you have any questions concerning this, please give me a call.

P. J. Snyder
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