FROM H. E. BONDS
SMELTING OPERATIONS
POINT COMFORT

TO INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE

COPIES TO: Dr. V. H. Barbour - Point Comfort
Mr. T. B. Bonney - Pittsburgh
Mr. R. S. Cain - Point Comfort
Mr. D. L. Emery - Point Comfort
Mr. H. W. Fritts - Point Comfort
Mr. C. L. Green - Point Comfort
Mr. E. J. Mulligan - Point Comfort
Mr. E. B. Robinson - Point Comfort
Mr. O. L. Royer - Point Comfort
Mr. C. F. Scott - Point Comfort
Mr. C. O. Turner - Point Comfort

February 20, 1970

CONFIDENTIAL

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
AL-140

RE: INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING - FEBRUARY 12, 1970

Present: Messrs. O. L. Royer, C. O. Turner, H. W. Fritts, D. L. Emery, C. L. Green, R. S. Cain, E. J. Mulligan, H. E. Bonds and Dr. V. H. Barbour.

Old Business:

Frequent urine analyses are being made on Chlor-Alkali employees, giving special attention to those individuals with high results. Mercury levels in urine have dropped to normal on certain individuals who were rotated out of the department with high readings.

Some mercury has been escaping from leaks in decomposer fittings. This materials-of-construction problem is receiving attention. Although a leak has been repaired on mercury retort, readings are still high and plans are being made to move retort to more acceptable area.

The mercury vapor system is still not satisfactory. Air washers will be tried on one ventilating fan.

It was pointed out that there was a need for instrumentation that would give instantaneous readings on mercury vapor. A discussion ensued on meters that would operate in magnetic fields.

The problem of operating with a .05 MAC was again discussed. Should this level be adopted it may be necessary to limit certain employees time on the job.

Pressurized masks are now being used by employees working in open decomposers.

Although the wash room has been renovated and the authorization closed, the Committee feels that this job has not been satisfactorily completed as yet. The Committee recommends that the job be reopened and the floor sloped toward adequate drains permitting residual mercury to be easily flushed from the room.

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ALCOA

The Leigh instrument used for monitoring gaseous fluorides at plant boundary has been loaned to Rockdale for approximately one month.

The disposition of an insurance claim by an employee for fluoride poisioning was discussed. Dr. Barbour reported that the diagnosis had been changed by the employee's physician to hypolipoprotieneia.

A second set of urine analyses for fluorides is being run on aluminum plant employees.

No further information has been received from Pittsburgh or MSA on activated alumina masks for potroom use since Mr. Bonney's visit in November, 1969.

No tests have been made for nitrogen oxides in engine houses during the first quarter. Tests will be resumed in the near future.

Commercial Contracting Company has had trouble keeping personnel on the job in connection with repair of potroom monitor catwalks and guttering.

The poor housekeeping in the Refining eating areas was again discussed. The following points were made:

1. Need for more constant janitorial service.
2. Covered garbage cans to be ordered for eating areas in Buildings A-325,35 and R-136.
3. Management should properly delegate responsibility for cleaning these areas.
4. Bug repellants will be tried.

The dust collecting systems for sawing Hi-Temp insulation in Pot Repair and for working Marinite in mold shop are inadequate. Modifications are being made.

The tight situation on lockers in Refining wash room has eased. Anticipated movement of personnel may afford more relief.

New Business:

Mr. Mulligan reported on an MSA seminar he attended in Houston. A booklet on environmental requirements of the Walsh-Healy Act is being published defining the requirements for noise and contaminents. Testing must be done by "qualified" personnel.

Practices have been changed, making it unnecessary for a man to get into decomposers in Chlor-Alkali Department when effecting repairs. An additional two hours cooling time before opening decomposers substantially reduces exposure to mercury vapor.

Housekeeping, safety and hygiene inspections by zones will be resumed early in April.

Mr. Royer reported that in joint Union-Management safety meetings the Union had requested more complete representation in safety matters. They want to become more involved at all levels. This will very probably be an issue in national contract negotiations next year.

H. E. BONDS

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File copy routed: Mr. E. L. Wahlsten
Mr. C. A. Belcolore
Mr. R. C. McCormack
Mr. H. P. Armintrout
Mr. F. J. Mabry
Mr. John Minter