

TO: File DATE: 01-26-82
FROM: Steven Borgstrom
RE: **REDACTED** Sherwin-Williams
CLAIM NUMBER: A-0342

RECEIVED
JAN 29 1982
Corp. Risk Mgmt.

1. DATE REFERENCE RECEIVED

October 29, 1981

2. SELF-INSURED

Sherwin-Williams, P.O. Box 340, Hillsboro, IL 62049, 217-532-3971. My contact at that location was Lester Roemelin, the Plant Manager.

3. EMPLOYEE

RR 2 Hillsboro, IL 62049, 217-532-5498.
He was 62 years old and was born August 20, 1918. His social security number is He was married to and had no dependents.

The employee was employed with our client for approximately 36 years. His position was automatic bag house operator. He was at that position almost the entire length of his service. His job duties consisted of operating machinery that draws zinc oxide out of the hopper and delivers it to the storage area via an enclosed conveyor line. He was required to replace dust bags when holes developed. These dust bags are located in cells. There are 14 cells per building. There are three buildings. All are set up identically. The employee would work in any one of the three. Photos were taken of the one building he worked in the majority of the time. It is believed the employee wore a double cartridge respirator up until two years ago when maintenance free particulate respirators were purchased.

For additional background information on the employee see numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 11 on letter sent to Attorney Mueller dated December 7, 1981.

Photos taken of employees work area on January 7, 1982.

Photos taken of employees home on January 8, 1982.

The claimant is being represented by Ron Scharf, 606 North State Street, Litchfield, IL 62056, 217-324-2101.

The claimant's AWW is \$234.85. His TTD rate is \$156.55. His PPD rate is \$156.55.

0007-SWP-005801122
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A-1341

January 26, 1982

4. THE OCCURRENCE

The application for adjustment of claims alleging exposure to pigeon dung, zinc oxide and other chemicals caused the death of the employee. The date of death was May 15, 1981.

5. WITNESSES

The employee's foremen were Melvin Grimm, Tony Lovatto Robert Shipman, Herbert Doehre. His co-workers could have been almost any employee.

6. PRESENT MEDICAL

Subpoenaed records indicate the employee was treated at Telfer Medical Center, 400 Roundtree, Hillsboro, IL 62049 271-532-3938 since May 14, 1962. See copies of the medical reports.

Subpoenaed records from Hillsboro Hospital, 1100 East Tremont, Hillsboro, IL 62049, 217-532-6111, have not been received to date.

The employee was treated at Springfield Internal Medicine Associates, 701 North Walnut Street, Building C, Springfield IL 62705, 217-528-9661. See copy of material received from them. It is a letter dated November 25, 1981 directed to Attorney Scharf.

The above letter indicates the employee was admitted to St. John Hospital, 800 East Carpenter, Springfield, IL 62705. 217-544-6464 in November of 1980. See copy of letter requesting a copy of the medical records.

The cause of death listed on the death certificate is Cardiorespiratory arrest, status asthmaticus.

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It was our client's policy to have the employee have a periodic physical. See copies of these reports. This was stopped several years ago.

7. PAST MEDICAL

February 19, 1941, father has silicosis lungs (employment application)

October 27, 1941, member of family with TB

March 27, 1981, death of brother, will attempt to determine cause

10. THIRD PARTY

A NOR-B10 Dust Collecting System was installed in 1946. There are 14 cells. Each cell has a number of dust bags. It is reverse air operated so that if the unit is operating, air is drawn in if the cell door is opened. There is a shut off cord that is used when the operator has to enter the cell to change the dust bags.

Our client is not aware of any modification of the system. It is maintained by our client.

All the time of our investigation, there was good updraft in the building. It has several windows and two open doorways. There are also roof vents. No pigeons were present.

11. LEFT TO DO

1. Contact Attorney Scharf to obtain his allegations
2. Obtain from Lester whatever information he develops from the employees neighbors
3. Obtain the medical records from St. Johns and Hillsboro Hospital
4. Obtain copy of the Osha monitoring which was done on the employee approximately two years ago
5. Have the work area monitored by a specialist
6. Consult with our pulmonary expert in Cleveland.
7. Arrange for Attorney Mueller to inspect the work area
8. Await the recommendations of Attorney Mueller

File active

cdr

cc: L. Roemelin, T. Locker, R. Mueller

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