FILE NAME: DuPont (DUP)

DATE: 1972 Feb 14

DOC#: DUP127

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to R.B. Hayden from James F. Morgan RE Asbestos Dust Control, with Handwritten Notations

cc: D. B. Sebree, Le[illegible] Wilmington
G. A. Christian/J. L. Parsons, Eng., Louviers
E. F. Ruppe, Administration, Wilmington
A. L. Linch, Orchem, Chambers Works
J. A. Zapp/C. F. Reinhardt, Emp. Rel., Haskell
A. Azar, Employee Relations, Haskell

C-[illegible]227

February 14, 1972

0069

R. B. Hayden
Textile Fibers Department
N-5424

Asbestos Dust Control
Ref.: Your letter 1/25/72 to D. B. Sebree

I would agree that (1) a sufficient need has developed for facilities within the Du Pont Company for the collection and counting of dust samples containing asbestos fibers; (2) the search for substitute materials should be a continuing one; and (3) another Company-wide conference would be worthwhile.

Some of our recent experiences are pertinent. In response to inquiries from several plants we have sent out a trained industrial hygiene engineer to make a survey at the plant in company with the plant technical persons who expect to have the continuing responsibility for monitoring airborne asbestos concentrations.

Our industrial hygienist usually spends one or one and one-half days at the plant. He examines:

(1) the processes in which asbestos-containing materials are used;
(2) the facilities for handling it, including those for dust control (enclosure, wetting, exhaust ventilation, dust collection);
(3) the medical surveillance of potentially exposed persons.

In company with the plant technical people he collects samples of airborne dust--locating sources of dust, leaks from equipment, and also determines the concentration in workers' breathing zones. He studies and observes factors which influence or affect airborne dust concentrations and the effectiveness of control procedures.

He offers recommendations for improved dust control or protective measures, if such are seen to be necessary.

He works out with the plant technical people a systematic procedure and schedule for periodic air sampling.

He serves as a liaison person in obtaining the services of a dust counting laboratory, receives from the results of counts and forwards to the plant an interpretation along with the results.

We prefer not to respond to a plant's request for assistance by sending out personal air samplers to be attached to workers with instructions on where the samples may be sent for counting. Experience has shown there is much to be gained by having the initial survey and counts aimed principally at making an overall assessment of the plant's needs in controlling the potential hazard.

Follow-up surveys aimed at gaining evidence of the effectiveness of control procedures and compliance with OSHA may then be made by the plant personnel who have had the benefit of the first-hand instruction and example.

Incidentally, we have had good performance in dust counting by the group led by Prof. William A. Burgess, Harvard School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, 665 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115. We have tested their technical competence and are completely satisfied. Results are obtained promptly and prices are satisfactorily low.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JAMES F. MORGAN

James F. Morgan
Industrial Hygiene Consultant

JFM/neh

0070

was compliance with OSHA objective?

sole objective?