PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
BRK-281

THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO
Division of Safety and Hygiene

Richard F. Celeste
Governor

One Government Center
Suite 1173
Jackson and Erie Streets
Toledo, Ohio 43604

October 5, 1989

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: OD[redacted]682-22
Edward Wheeler
[redacted] Fischer Guide
Elyria, Ohio

Attn: Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

On July 12, 1989 I visited the General Motors Fischer Guide, Elyria, Ohio to gather information on the above claim. I discovered the plant had been closed for a month.

I interviewed Robert Hill, Employee Benefit Representative at the closed plant, by phone. I interviewed Joe Dalnokey, General Foreman at the closed Fischer Guide Plant. I attempted to interview the claimant on various occasions but he did not return my telephone calls.

The claimant is presently employed at a General Motors plant in Parma, Ohio.

Health Information

The claimant has been diagnosed as having probable asthma. Dr. Linas Vaitkus M.D. states, "Exposure to fumes, dusts and certain metal particles and precipitate and exacerbate the symptoms which the claimant experiences or state above". This statement refers to the claimants complaints and history of injury reported on form C-30 in the facsimile file. The complaints in[illegible]e sore throat sputum production, fatigue of 5 weeks duration [illegible]d fever.

Work History

The following information is a compendium of interviews and the facsimile file.

1977 - 1988 Fisher Guide, Elyria
The claimant was a production worker and supervisor.

1988 - Present G.M.C. Parma Plant
Production Supervisor on second shift press metal areas.

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Environmental Information

This review is from the interview with Mr. Dalnokey and the material safety data sheets (MSDS) in the facsimile file.

Elyria Plant

This plant manufactured foam seat forms for G.M.C. This involves injecting a urethane foam into a mold. The foam expands and sets in the mold. The foaming agents are toluene diisocyanate (TDI); disphenylmethane dicsocyanate (MDI) blend. A mold release agent is sprayed in the mold to facilitate easy parts removal.

DIISOCYANATES

Diisocyanates can irritate the respiratory tract and are respiratory sensitizers, producing asthma-like symptoms in sensitized individuals with exposure at very low concentrations. Exposure to diisocyanates may result in chronic impairment of pulmonary function.

This group of substances includes toluene diisocyanate (TDI), hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI), diphenyl methane diisocyanate (MDI), and polymethylene polyphenylisocyanate (PAPI). The toxic effects of all the isocyanates are roughly the same (mucous membrane irritation and sensitization) but their hazard in use depends on their volatility. TDI and HDI, being more volatile, are therefore far more hazardous than MDI and PAPI which are of low volatility. (Criteria for a Recommended Standard . . . Occupational Exposure to Diisocyanates, NIOSH, 1978. Documentation of the TLV's and BEI's, 5th Edition, ACGIH, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1986.)

The mold release was sprayed into hot molds 185° - 200°F. Mr. Dalnokey identified it as V M & P Naphtha. The V M & P Naphtha MSDS in the facsimile file suggest that the vapors and mists could irritate the eyes and respiratory tract. Prolonged (chronic) exposure may affect the central nervous system.

The synergistic effects of the two previous products is unknown to this author. A sensitive person could have a reaction at exposure levels well below the OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1000 Standards or the levels noted in the respective MSDS's.

Parma Plant

The general foreman of the second shift press metal zone where the claimant is working, (Department 28) provided a written job description for the claimant. Mr. Dennis J. Asmously, General Foreman, said, "On a normal day, he comes involved with hyd. oils, lube oils, and draw oils. All around Department 38

are departments which do welding operations. Ed Wheeler is exposed to all the associated fumes that go with welder departments.

On occasions Ed Wheeler will cover Department 40 and Department 37. These departments are hood lines and hood assembly welders. There are mastic and adhesives in these hood assembly operations.

The claimants exposure to any specific airborne contaminants would be speculation. This operating plant could possibly provide air sampling, product information and a claimant interview.

Sincerely,

Richard Wilder dr

Richard Wilder
Industrial Hygienist

RW/dr

[1]V M & P Naphtha Product Code 133060-00607 Exxon Corporation MSDS 7/1/89.

RECORDS CERTIFICATION

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William D. Kaye
SUPERVISOR, Microfilming Unit

John Fahey
Name (Camera Operator)

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Date

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