

DRILL, FRIESS, HAYS, LOOMIS & SHAFFER, INC.
CONSULTANTS IN TOXICOLOGY

Arlington Office
1901 N. Fort Myer Drive
Suite 704
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 527-6450

Seattle Office
2707 E. Becker Rd.
Clinton, WA 98236
(206) 321-5175
Ted A. Loomis, M.D., Ph.D.

March 26, 1990

Mr. Robert L. Hollingshead
Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch
163 Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 1945
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-1945

Re: Peterson vs. Union Carbide Corp.

Dear Mr. Hollingshead:

This is a supplement to my letter to you of November 2, 1989. It is in response to your request for an opinion in regard to any causal relation between Mr. Peterson's illness and possible exposure to styrene/polystyrene or to epichlorhydrin and glycidyl ethers during his employment at ATC.

My letter of Nov. 2nd quotes Dr. Epstein as suggesting that Mr. Peterson's exposure to styrene/polystyrene at ATC was causally related to the (1) laryngeal tumor and (2) to the production of a substantially excess risk of future disease and cancer. He makes these inferences in the absence of any data whatsoever regarding the exposure conditions to styrene/polystyrene (or in fact to his phenol resins or epichlorhydrin which he includes along with styrene/polystyrene). Such conclusions are without scientific basis.

The use of terminology designed to imply the existance of extremely hazardous conditions because a chemical is present in a building is misleading. Whereas the presence of a chemical in a building may, indeed, present the potential for exposure to the chemical, such exposure can only occur if the chemical is released in some form whereby it can be taken into the body such as by inhalation, oral ingestion or absorption through the skin. It is generally recognised in toxicology that all chemicals can be hazardous if they are improperly handled yet even the most potent of all chemicals can be present and handled whereby there will be no hazard to humans if they are not available for absorption into the body. In Mr. Peterson's case there are no data that suport his exposure to conditions that would result in the intake of styrene/polystyrene, epichlorhydrin or a glycidyl ether in an amount that would constitute cause for significant risk to his present or future health status.

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